

القدس ج ١٠

Eclecticism

perspective and also are important to him because you cannot look at the Grand Canyon without thinking of time as well as space. There's no other place where you become aware of that. And of course space and time are closely related or are the same thing virtually. So you ponder that a bit, or I do anyway. I sit there and think about these things and I suppose that's in the pictures in a way.

The Grand Canyon paintings are in a room with a group of much smaller 1997-98 canvases of the East Yorkshire countryside, astonishingly lush, painted with the freshness of a child's eye but in no way naïf.

They were painted for a Yorkshire friend, Jonathan Silver, who was dying at 47 from pancreatic cancer. Familiar scenes become transcendent, the countryside is bright with red brick buildings and fat green fields. They can be analyzed in terms of Hockney's studies of perspective or they can be seen as a testament of friendship to Silver and his wife and children, the gift of life's beauty before it begins to fade.

With Hockney one always has the feeling that his love of doing it is an essential part of his work, and love does include loss. Hockney looks young but has been losing his hearing to the point where he can no longer design for opera. One of the attractions of the Grand Canyon, he says, is that "It's also silent and I'm moving into a more silent world." He can hear music better, his car radio and likes driving through the California hills listening to Schumann's Rhenish symphony, from which, he points out, composers of Hollywood westerns invariably steal. His next project is to paint Monument Valley.

He finds it odd that his mother is 98 and keeping a heady eye on the health of her contemporaries. Barbara Cartland and the Queen Mother, while so many younger friends are dying or dead. "Life," he says, "is always giving me a new feeling of script."



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THE DEATH OF KING HUSSEIN

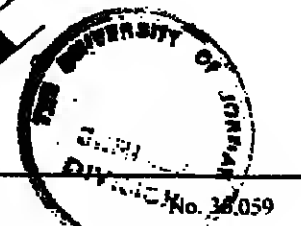
Herald INTERNATIONAL Tribune

PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST

The World's Daily Newspaper

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London, Monday, February 8, 1999



World Pays Tribute to Champion of Peace

Schroeder Ally Suffers Loss in State Election

Surprise Hesse Result Means Coalition Will Face Barrier to Legislation in Upper House

By William Drozdiak
Washington Post Service

BERLIN — In the first electoral test since Chancellor Gerhard Schröder swept to power three months ago, Germany's governing coalition of Social Democrats and Greens appeared set to lose their majority in the upper house of Parliament after being defeated Sunday in Hesse state elections.

The surprising setback means the Schröder government will face serious difficulties in pushing through key legislation, which must be approved by both houses of Parliament.

While it holds a comfortable majority in the lower house, the government will no longer be able to count on the support of the upper house, or Bundesrat, which reflects who controls the 16 states.

Early results in Sunday's voting showed the opposition Christian Democrats surging past Mr. Schröder's Social Democrats to become the leading party in Hesse, an affluent industrial region that includes the financial capital, Frankfurt.

The Christian Democrats now seem likely to form a new state government with the Free Democrats, their traditional allies.

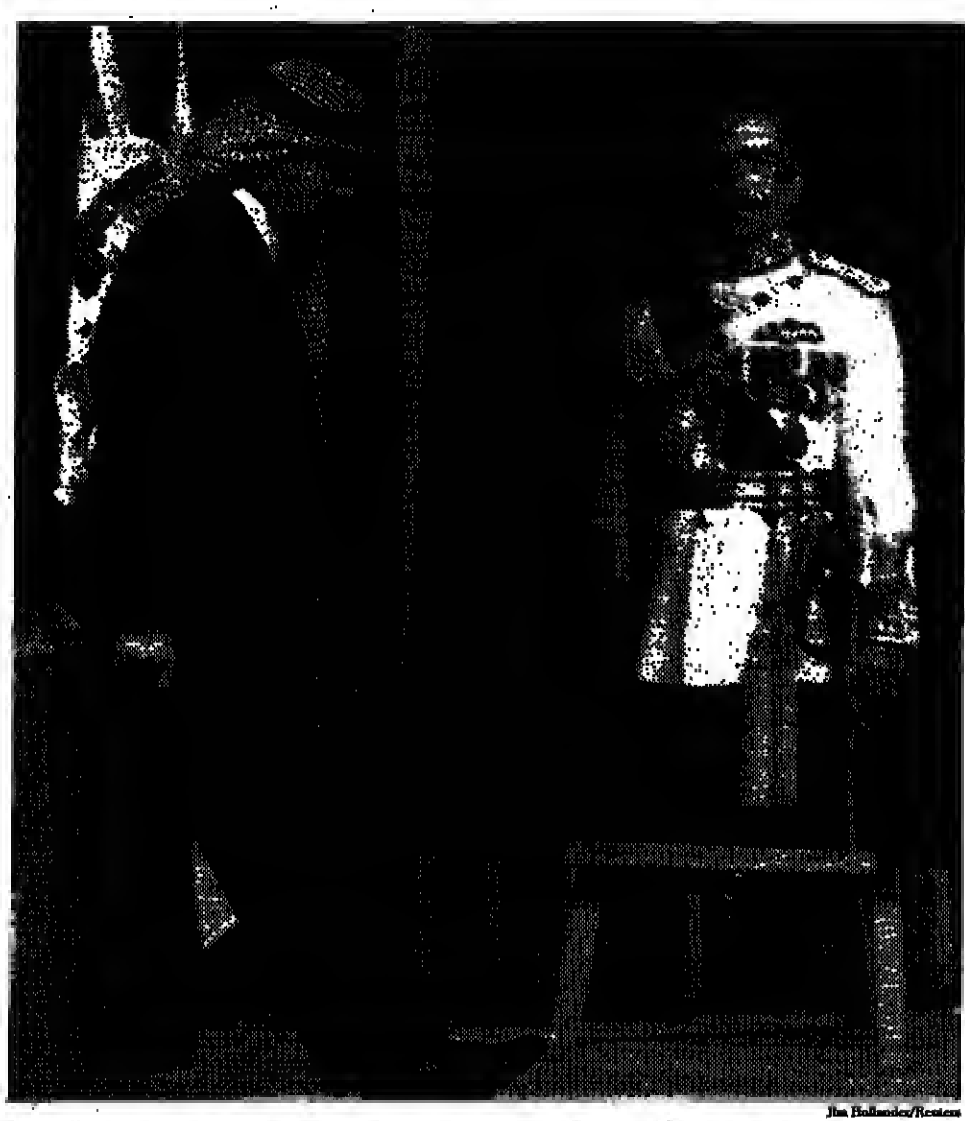
Initial projections gave the Christian Democrats about 43 percent of the vote, a rise of more than 4 percent over their showing four years ago. The Social Democrats scored a slight gain to about 39 percent. But their ruling partner, the environmentalist Greens, dropped more than 4 percent to about 7 percent of the vote. The Free Democrats also lost support, but managed to stay above the 5 percent threshold needed to hold seats in Parliament.

The conservative shift in Hesse was clearly influenced by an opposition drive to thwart Mr. Schröder's plans to reform the citizenship laws that would make it much easier for foreigners to become integrated into German society. The Christian Democrats sponsored a petition that collected more than one million signatures, rejecting the idea of giving millions of foreigners the chance to hold dual citizenship.

The petition was endorsed by Germany's rightist extremist parties, sparking an outcry from the Social Democrats that their mainstream opponents were fanning the flames of xenophobia. Germany plays host to more foreigners than any other country in Europe; in Frankfurt, nearly one-third of the population is now composed of non-Germans.

The defeat in Hesse ousts the Social Democrats and Greens from power in a state they have controlled for the past eight years. Wolfgang Schäuble, the Christian Democratic leader, said the result was a clear vote of no-confidence in Mr. Schröder's first 100 days in office.

Mr. Schäuble predicted the conservative opposition would score further victories in other state elections later this year that should consolidate their new blocking majority in the upper house of Parliament.



King Abdullah passing a portrait of his father in Parliament after being sworn in Sunday.

Abdullah Sworn In As Jordan Mourns

New Ruler Faces Internal Strains Queen Noor's Son Is Crown Prince

By William A. Orme Jr.
New York Times Service

AMMAN, Jordan — When Crown Prince Abdullah was sworn in as king Sunday, observers here said that internal political challenges — rather than foreign affairs crises — were likely to present the new leader with his first tests.

Rated by the Jordanian cabinet on Saturday as the regent, or acting monarch, the 37-year-old crown prince now has the constitutional power to appoint cabinet ministers, call elections and command the army, in which he has spent most of his adult life.

While few analysts here expect major political crises in the first months of the crown prince's rule, they say he will still have to move in short order to replace at least a few members of the current cabinet, including the unpopular prime minister, Fayez Tarawneh, the 55th of King Hussein's parade of politically weak cabinet chiefs.

In an interview last week, Abdullah voiced his own desire for what he called "comprehensive changes," including new free-market reforms and further — though gradual and guided — democratization.

Putting the first direct challenge to the new ruler, the opposition Muslim Brotherhood last week asked to meet with the crown prince to present its demands for the dissolution of Parliament and new elections.

Complaining of state media strictures and alleged threats against its candidates, the Islamist party boycotted the last general election in 1997, leaving the Parliament with almost no opposition representation.

The Muslim Brotherhood's unyielding opposition to peace agreements with Israel is only one point of contention. The party is also a fierce populist defender of subsidies on basic foods. These subsidies were eliminated by the financially pressed government, setting off riots last year.

Officials who know King Abdullah expect him to agree to a request for a dialogue with the Islamist opposition.

"His style is to pursue a policy of inclusion rather than a policy of exclusion," said Rima Khalaf, a former planning minister who worked closely with the crown prince on several projects in the past.

"That should determine the way he deals with the Muslim Brotherhood and other so-called opposition groups. He is a unifier by nature."

But to accede to the Muslim Brotherhood demand for dissolution of Parliament could be a risk not worth taking until King Abdullah has consolidated his hold on power.

By Douglas Jehl
New York Times Service

AMMAN, Jordan — Hussein bin Talal, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan since 1952 and a man admired around the world as a champion of peace, succumbed Sunday to the cancer that had ravaged his final days.

The king, who was 63, died as his heart failed in an Amman hospital at 11:43 A.M., just 48 hours after he had been flown home unconscious from a clinic in the United States. The palace said it had been his "persistent wish" to die on Jordanian soil.

Within hours, in a somber yet seamless succession, the late king's eldest son, Abdullah bin Hussein, placed his hand on the Koran and read a single-sentence oath of allegiance before a joint session of Parliament. At age 37, the new monarch became the fourth leader of this small but strategically vital 76-year-old desert kingdom.

King Hussein is to be buried Monday on the grounds of Raghadan Palace, among royal tombs that also house the bodies of his grandfather, King Abdullah I, the first ruler of Jordan, and King Talal, who ceded the throne when his son was just a teenager.

An extraordinary array of world leaders, past and present, was beading to Jordan to attend a state funeral Monday in Amman. The group included President Clinton and his wife, Hillary, Prime Minister Tony Blair of Britain and a host of Arab leaders, including the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat. From Israel, a delegation led by President Ezer Weizman will also include Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and two former prime ministers, to honor a neighbor whose most lasting leap of faith may have been the peace he forged with Israel in 1994.

In a brief address to the nation, King Abdullah promised that he would "maintain Hussein's legacy." He wore a coal-black suit of mourning and a brilliant red keffiyeh headscarf — mirroring the ties to the West and fellow Arabs that, under King Hussein, helped Jordan to play an outsized role.

"Hussein was a father, a brother, to each of you, the same as he was my father," the new king said of the only leader most Jordanians have ever known. "Today, you are my brothers and sisters, and with you, I find sympathy and condolences under God."

Late Sunday, King Abdullah named as crown prince his half-brother Hamzah, 18, the eldest son of Queen Noor, in a gesture that may have been intended to avoid what might otherwise have been a family rift.

In Israel, Grief and Concern

Neighbor Wonders About Continuity of Peace Process

By Deborah Sontag and Joel Greenberg
New York Times Service

JERUSALEM — With an outpouring of great feeling, Israelis on Sunday mourned King Hussein of Jordan, whom they regarded as a mensch in a keffiyeh, a larger-than-life figure who rose above the enmities of the region to forge with them a genuine peace.

"He was a model for the entire leadership of the Middle East, for how an enemy can become a friend," President Ezer Weizmann said at a news conference within minutes of the announcement of the king's death.

At the same time, some Israelis looked ahead warily to an altered regional dynamic, in which Jordan, Israel's strategic ally in the Middle East, would no longer have a leader with the charisma, experience and clout of King Hussein.

The new king, Hussein's eldest son, Abdullah, has pledged to reaffirm his father's commitment to the peace effort, but he is young and unknown and faces a series of difficult choices in building diplomatic relationships throughout the region.

"King Hussein is irreplaceable," said Joseph Alpher, director of the American Jewish Committee in Israel. "Since Sadat, there hasn't been an Arab leader with his kind of dedication to the peace process."

"With all due respect to his successor, it will take him a lot of time to develop as a leader and come anywhere near projecting the kind of authority and international influence of his father," Mr. Alpher added.

King Hussein ruled Jordan for 47 years, from the time Israel was a toddler nation. Israelis grew up with him, as he evolved from opponent of the Jewish homeland to its only real friend in the Arab world. After years of discreet cooperation with Israeli leaders, King Hussein signed a peace treaty with the Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in 1994.

What Israelis came to see as King Hussein's genuine goodwill toward them was crystallized

See ISRAEL, Page 5

See ABDULLAH, Page 4

See JORDAN, Page 4

East Timor Vote May Be Scrubbed

By Michael Richardson
International Herald Tribune

JAKARTA — Indonesia might cancel local elections in East Timor in June to avoid inflaming the conflict between groups favoring independence and those that oppose it.

In an interview before talks in New York on Sunday and Monday with Portugal and the United Nations, Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said that Indonesia was "thinking of" canceling the provincial and district voting in East Timor and encouraging rival groups to join a new "consultation process" to decide whether a plan was acceptable that would give extensive autonomy to the province.

He said that in talks on Monday with the UN secretary-general, Kofi Annan, he would seek Mr. Annan's views on how best to ascertain the positions of the East Timorese, short of holding a referendum. Mr. Alatas said a referendum would be "highly dangerous" because it can create conflict again and civil war.

The question of how to gauge local opinion in a way acceptable to the East Timorese and the international community is critical. In a surprise announcement Jan. 27, the government said it would consider severing ties

See INDONESIA, Page 7



BACK TO JAIL — The former heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson being led out of a Maryland court. He was sentenced to a year in jail for assaulting two motorists after a minor traffic accident. Page 18.

AGENDA

Serbs and Ethnic Albanians Begin Talks on Kosovo Peace

Yugoslav authorities and ethnic Albanian rebels from Kosovo Province completed their first full day of peace talks Sunday, and afterward a spokesman characterized the negotiations as "constructive, businesslike and serious."

In Rambouillet, southwest of Paris, negotiators representing Yugoslavia's Serbian president, Slobodan Milosevic, and factions from Kosovo reviewed a draft settlement plan concerning Kosovo's future elections, its constitution and the role of a permanent ombudsman. Page 7.

Ethiopia and Eritrea Clash

Ferocious fighting broke out between Ethiopia and Eritrea over the weekend in the heart of the disputed border area between the two neighbors that just a year ago regarded one another as brothers.

The two countries accused each other of starting the battle Saturday on a patch of land called Badame. Each side claimed to have inflicted heavy casualties on the other. Page 2.

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Senators Keep The Heat On Over Censure

By Brian Knowlton
International Herald Tribune

WASHINGTON — Even with the end of the impeachment trial of President Bill Clinton expected in days, senators remained in a remarkable state of ferment on Sunday, with sharp divisions over censure proposals and angry words about alleged perjury by a witness in the trial.

The Senate and the country saw videotaped testimony Saturday from a poised Monica Lewinsky, but it appeared to change no minds. (Page 3.)

Closing arguments begin on Monday, with Senate debate to follow, and votes on the articles of impeachment are expected Thursday or Friday.

A controversy arose Sunday over an allegation by a British journalist, Christopher Hitchens, that Sidney Blumenthal, a senior Clinton aide, was being misleading when he testified last week that he knew of no effort by the White House to depict Ms. Lewinsky as a "stalker."

Neither that nor any other distraction appeared likely to lessen the virtual certainty that Mr. Clinton will be acquitted of the charges that he committed perjury and obstructed justice in trying to conceal his relationship with Ms. Lewinsky.

But with a score of senators appearing on Sunday news programs, the differences were stark over efforts to fashion a censure resolution, probably to be introduced after the trial, to condemn Mr. Clinton's conduct.

Most Democrats and some Republicans strongly favor a censure vote as a way to indicate that Mr. Clinton's conduct was "shameless, reckless and indefensible" — as one draft of a censure resolution states — but

See WORK, Page 15

See CLINTON, Page 5

German Workplace Rules: A Hurdle for the Jobless

By Edmund L. Andrews
New York Times Service

GUMMERSBACH, Germany — To read the local court's verdict last October, Werner Hund was more than just guilty. He was a "danger to the public interest," an incorrigible repeat offender who had to be stopped.

Mr. Hund, 40, is a self-employed roofer. His alleged crime: taking telephone calls at home from customers.

Talking on the phone is not usually illegal. But Mr. Hund was licensed to work only as a "traveling" carpenter, not as a "master" roofer. It was all right for him to walk up to a construction site and offer his services, but he was forbidden to have a fixed place of business.

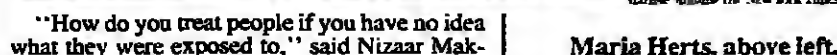
Now, eight years after Mr. Hund says he did not hang out his shingle, the local authorities are about to shut him down. "They keep talking about the unemployment problem, but they're putting me out of work," he said. Mr. Hund is one of many

Germans caught up in a broad political battle over job protection and workplace flexibility. Germany has some of the strictest work rules in Europe, and they have helped produce one of the best-paid and most productive work forces in the world.

But Germany also has high labor costs and a stubbornly high unemployment rate of more than 10 percent. And competition is increasing as Europe becomes a single market with a single currency.

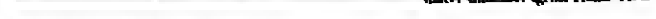
Dutch Ask: What Was in El Al Plane?

Yet a further 20 tons of the 114-ton cargo are unidentified, and the relevant travel documents are missing. El Al has said this cargo was destined for the Israeli Ministry of Defense but it cannot disclose its nature for "reasons of national security." A Defense Ministry spokesman has said the freight did not include dangerous goods.



Police and firefighters who were at the crash site, which was crowded for four days, said the air was filled with a lethal cocktail, including

Among them was Euly Frijoles, a woman with mysterious black scars on her neck and face, as though someone stubbed out a cigarette on her skin. After the crash, she had joined the search party.



"All this has been dragging on for too long—the claims, the unexamined illnesses," said Mr. van der Goen, the lawyer. "It's scandalous that such a thing can happen in a European country."

feather. **Asia**

"The alternative, continued fighting, is completely unacceptable to the in-

government order banning the airline from flying on the Jewish Sabbath and holy days. (Reuters)

He was director of the Institute for Economic Analysis of New York University from 1975 to 1991. Earlier, he

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Legend: c=clear, pc=partly cloudy, c=cloudy, sh=snow, h=heavy snow, r=rain, s=snow flurries
 sh=snow, h=heavy snow, r=rain, s=snow flurries

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Fila del Centro	30/85	24/73 po	30/85	24/73 sh
Santiago	30/85	9/48 s	30/85	12/63 s

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THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

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The Death of King Hussein / A Legacy of Bold Diplomacy

Monarch Risked Assassins and Arab Wrath in Decades on Throne



The king and the American-born Queen Noor on his 58th birthday in 1993.



Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, with King Hussein in October 1997.

A Half-Century of Mideast Strife Marked Path to Peace With Israel

By Judith Miller
New York Times Service

King Hussein of Jordan was the Middle East's longest-reigning ruler, but he took little comfort from mere survival in that turbulent region.

He once said he yearned for a "hero's death" like that of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli foe he ultimately embraced as his "brother" and "partner in peace," but who then was assassinated.

His twin legacies — peace with his neighbors, including Israel, and a fairly tolerant, stable society at home — would be impressive in any context. But they are particularly so given the often violent politics of the Mideast and the impoverished country whose rule he inherited in 1952 while still a teenager.

King Hussein spent the final months of his life working for peace and a succession to his rule that he hoped would ensure his family's control of the throne and stability in Jordan.

Just days before his death, he stunned the world, bypassing his younger brother, Prince Hassan, 51, and naming his eldest son, 37-year-old Abdullah, as heir to the throne.

Apart from settling succession, King Hussein's last efforts were aimed at helping promote peace with Israel.

Drawn and pale, and made bald by four rounds of chemotherapy, the king left the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, to take part in the Wye summit talks in Maryland and to help President Bill Clinton coax Israeli and Palestinian negotiators into concluding an important step toward a settlement.

King Hussein's rule was marked by bold diplomatic strokes as well as by some strategic blunders.

Notable among his blunders was his decision not to join the American-led coalition that drove the invasion forces of President Saddam Hussein of Iraq from Kuwait in 1991.

Reputed among Jordanians to enjoy *baraka*, or God's blessing, for dodging at least 12 assassination attempts and 7 plots to overthrow him, the king ultimately accomplished what his grandfather had been unable to do.

In 1994 he secured a stunning peace agreement with Israel, which he has called his reign's "crowning achievement."

In July 1994, standing on the White House lawn beside Prime Minister Rabin, King Hussein initiated an accord that technically ended the state of war between the neighboring countries. And three months later, in an emotional ceremony in his own land, he became the third Arab leader to sign a formal peace treaty with Israel.

Descended from a powerful Arab family that traced its lineage to the Prophet Mohammed, Hussein ibn Talal ibn Hussein was born in Amman, Jordan, on Nov. 14, 1935, to Crown Prince Talal and Princess Zein.

His family, like his country, were poor. His grandfather, King Abdullah, had been born and raised among the tribes of the Arabian Desert, but Hussein, in contrast, was educated at Victoria College in Alexandria, Egypt, and at Harrow, and the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst, in Britain.

His Hashemite family owed much to Britain. After World War I, to guard against French encroachment on British interests in Palestine, and to reward the family for its help against the Ottoman Turks, Winston Churchill, then colonial secretary, carved Transjordan out of Syria in 1921, agreed to finance the emirate with a modest subsidy and gave it to Abdullah to rule under British mandate.

In 1946, Transjordan became independent. Abdullah, who never abandoned the dream of recreating and ruling a modern Arab empire, became king and renamed his country the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

After King Abdullah's assassination outside the Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem in 1951, which Hussein witnessed, Prince Talal, who had been treated at a Swiss clinic for schizophrenia, took the throne.

When his mental attacks worsened, the Parliament removed him, on Aug. 11, 1952, less than a month after Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt, a young Egyptian officer, helped topple King Farouk in a military coup.

Hussein was proclaimed Jordan's king just as intense Arab nationalism was taking hold throughout the region. In 1967, King Hussein flew to Cairo shortly before war erupted with Israel to sign a military treaty with President Nasser.

Although the king knew he was taking a risk by siding with Syria and Egypt, he

explained later that he had feared the fury of his people, many of them Palestinians, more than he feared Israel. A senior Jordanian official said most Jordanians so strongly favored the war that the king's choice, in fact, was between "war and civil war."

It was a costly decision. As a result of the 1967 war, Israel occupied all of Jerusalem and the West Bank. Thousands of Palestinian refugees fled into and Jordan, increasing the population by about half. Three-quarters of the population of Amman was now of Palestinian origin, making it the largest Palestinian city.

Unlike other Arab rulers, Hussein offered the refugees citizenship and a passport. In 1970, Yasser Arafat and the Palestine Liberation Organization, which increasingly viewed Hussein as vulnerable and an obstacle to its struggle, challenged the Hashemites' control of Jordan. In despair over the prospect of a civil war, the king later acknowledged, he briefly pondered abdication, as he would again during other crises.

Instead, he decided to confront Mr. Arafat and the Palestinians, and he won.

Drawn once into an Arab war with Israel, King Hussein would not be seduced a second time. Before the 1973 war, according to Israeli diplomats, he cautioned Israel that Egypt and Syria were planning to attack, but his warning was discounted.

And while the king sent Jordanian armored units to fight alongside Syrians, he avoided fighting Israel along their common border, a decision that likely prevented the loss of still more land to Israel.

In his fourth major crisis, the 1991 Gulf war, King Hussein sided with radical Arab passions in his tilt toward President Hussein of Iraq.

But his stance infuriated Saudi Arabia and other Gulf nations, not to mention Washington, whose gifts and foreign aid had helped him to survive and Jordan to prosper.

While proud of his family's and his country's Arab heritage, King Hussein always understood the need to maintain contact with Israel.

The first meeting between the king and a succession of Israeli leaders took place in mid-1963 at the London home of his doctor when the king was only 29, and had yet to consolidate power.

Subsequent sessions were held in Paris, in tents, in desert trailers, aboard boats, on a Red Sea island, even in an Israeli intelligence service safe house north of Tel Aviv.

For King Hussein, who had few illusions about the dangerous neighborhood in which he lived or the perfidy of many of his neighbors, Israel was an insurance policy against Egyptian, Syrian, Palestinian and even Iraqi ambitions.

In his years on the throne, King Hussein had 4 wives, fathered 11 children and adopted a 12th.

A superb dancer who loved parties, the young king quickly established a reputation as a playboy, an image that he never fully overcame.

His first marriage, to Sherifa Dina Abdul Hamid, a Cambridge intellectual who was an older, distant cousin, ended after only 18 months.

A lively, independent woman who found Amman a dull city, she had one child, a daughter. But she and King Hussein had little else in common. They parted amicably and she later married a Palestinian guerrilla who was involved in the 1970 uprising against the king.

The king's second wife was Toni Avril Gardiner, whom the king named Muna, Arabic for "My Wish." The shy daughter of an English colonel at the British Embassy, Muna had little interest in politics and refused to be named queen. She and Hussein had four children, including Abdullah. The marriage ended in 1972.

The king then married Alia Baha ud-Din Toukan, the daughter of a prominent Palestinian diplomat from Nablus, on the West Bank, who had settled near Amman.

He and the popular queen had two children and adopted a daughter. Alia was killed in a helicopter accident in 1977.

In 1978, King Hussein took a fourth wife, an American, Lisa Halaby, the daughter of Nabeed Halaby, a Texan who was head of Pan American World Airways and the Federal Aviation Administration and whose family came from Aleppo, Syria.

She is known as Queen Noor, her name meaning "Light" in Arabic.

She and King Hussein had two sons, Hamza and Hashem, and two daughters, Iman and Rayah.

In Amman, Disbelief and Tears

'We Would Give Our Life for Yours!' Some Men Chant

The Associated Press

AMMAN, Jordan — The news of King Hussein's death spread quickly through the crowd outside the hospital: a spark of disbelief, a moment of stunned sorrow, then an eruption of grief.

Hundreds of people, sobbing wildly and shouting the king's name, surged toward the gates of the hospital where he died Sunday. Guards blocked their way, but there was no confrontation. Some of them were crying as well.

"We would give our life for yours!" young men chanted, waving portraits of the king wrinkled by a cold and steady rain. Some people collapsed in agony. A woman lay weeping in the mud on the foggy roadside.

As elderly women shook and wailed in grief, men cried into their red-and-white head scarves, wrapped around their faces in a traditional gesture of mourning.

"My king! My king!" groaned one man, his face pressed into his hands.

Elsewhere, people came together in quiet mourning for the Middle East's longest-ruling monarch.

At a curbside kiosk, the owner draped a black ribbon over a photograph of Hussein and 10 people gathered around. No one said a word. The owner, Ali Hassan, turned on an old radio.

They listened to the voice of their new monarch, Hussein's eldest son, Abdullah.

"I am going home," said Mr. Hassan, born the same year that Hussein began his reign in 1952. "This is a day to cry with my family."

An instinctive magnet — a need to share the mourning — drew many Jordanians together on a dreary afternoon.

Some learned the news from friends. In one suburb, women shouted the news from balconies. At one construction site — Sunday is a work day in Jordan — workers put down their tools and surrounded a pickup truck with a radio.

A construction worker, Ali Baraash, threw his arm over a colleague's shoulder, wiping away a tear that left a streak of tar and dirt down his cheek.

"I feel like I've lost a brother," he said. "Yes, that's how I feel: like I've lost a brother. God have mercy on him."

Stores closed and black banners were quickly displayed.

"Good-bye" was the simple message on one sign. Black cloth also hung from a large portrait of Hussein in a main square. Flags at government ministries and embassies were lowered to half-staff to begin a 40-day mourning period.

Radio stations and television played Koranic prayers and repeated the address to the nation given by King Abdullah.

"The king is dead. The king is dead," said Sahar Jundi, a secretary who broke down in tears.



King Abdullah during his swearing-in Sunday.

Yeltsin May Join World Dignitaries at the Funeral

Reuters

MOSCOW — A spokesman for President Boris Yeltsin declined Sunday to confirm or deny a variety of reports that the Russian leader would lead the country's delegation to the funeral of King Hussein, the Interfax news agency reported on Sunday. A trip to Jordan would mark a surprise return to major duties by Mr. Yeltsin, who has had many illnesses and is recuperating now in a hospital from a stomach ulcer.

Dignitaries Expected at Funeral

Following is a partial list of world leaders and others who plan to attend

King Hussein's funeral on Monday, as compiled by The Associated Press:

Austria — President Thomas Klestil.
Bahrain — Emir Sheikh Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa.
Belgium — King Albert II and Queen Paola.
Britain — Prince Charles; Prime Minister Tony Blair.
Canada — Prime Minister Jean Chretien.
Denmark — King Margrethe II.
Egypt — President Hosni Mubarak.
France — President Jacques Chirac and wife, Bernadette.
Germany — Chancellor Gerhard Schröder; his spokeswoman, Uwe-Karsten Heyes, and his foreign policy expert, Michael Stinner.
India — President K. R. Narayanan.
Iraq — Vice President Taha Mahdoun Maruf and

Deputy Foreign Minister Noori Ismail Wajid.
Israel — President Ezer Weizman; Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu; former Prime Ministers Shimon Peres and Yitzhak Shamir; Leah Rabin, widow of assassinated Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin; Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon; opposition Labor Party leader, Ehud Barak; head of the Mossad secret service, Efraim Halevy.
Italy — President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro.
Japan — Crown Prince Naruhiko; Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi.
Luxembourg — Grand Duke Jean and Grand Duchess Josephine-Charlotte; Foreign Minister Jacques Poos.
Netherlands — Queen Beatrix; Prime Minister Wim Kok.
Oman — Sultan Qaboos.
Pakistan — Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif; Foreign Minister Sartar Aziz.
Palestinian Authority — Chairman Yasser Arafat.
Russia — President Boris Yeltsin, maybe; Prime

Minister Yevgeny Primakov is listed as "likely."
Saudi Arabia — Crown Prince Abdullah.
South Africa — Minister of Home Affairs Mngoshu Buthe.
South Korea — Prime Minister Kim Jong Pil.
Spain — King Juan Carlos; Queen Sofia; Prince Felipe and Princess Elena and Cristina.
Sudan — President Omar al-Bashir.
Switzerland — Defense Minister and Deputy President Adolf Ogi.
Turkey — President Suleyman Demirel; Foreign Minister Ismail Cem.
United Nations — Secretary-General Kofi Annan.
United States — President Bill Clinton and wife, Hillary Rodham Clinton; former Presidents Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter and George Bush; Senator Ted Stevens, Republican; Alaska's Governor and Dots Halaby, parents of Queen Noor.
World Bank — President James Wolfensohn.
Yemen — President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

ABDULLAH: His First Tests

Continued from Page 1

The current Parliament will adjourn in March, and, as is customary in Jordan, is not scheduled to reconvene until October. "That could by Abdullah some time," a politician said.

King Abdullah is universally expected to adhere scrupulously to constitutional procedures for any government personnel changes. "The constitution has been respected all through this ordeal, as you are all aware," Information Minister Nasser Judeh said Saturday at a news conference.

"This is a country of solid institutions," Mr. Judeh declared. "This is a country of continuity."

Yet, even if broad policies and institutions are unlikely to change, there is general agreement that the new government cannot simply continue with the current cast of political characters.

"The real question is when," said a former top official.

The most sensitive immediate issue is the fate of senior officials who owe their positions to King Abdullah's uncle, Prince Hassan, who served as crown prince for 34 years and retains great influence in the foreign and finance ministries.

If the new ruler is seen to be moving too quickly to replace Hassan loyalists, it could be viewed as an unseemly vendetta. Yet a failure to install some of his own appointees might be misinterpreted as a sign of weakness, hampering King Abdullah's ability to rule, observers said.

The best early indicator of how the new ruler intends to handle this dilemma may be Mr. Judeh himself, who is a son-in-law of Prince Hassan.

Mr. Judeh has been severely criticized for the paucity of state media coverage of King Hussein's health and plans for the succession.

Most Amman professionals say they have had to follow the events on foreign radio and cable television.

Clinton to Meet King

President Bill Clinton will meet King Abdullah on Monday as the United States begins working to fill a void in the Middle East peace process left by the death of King Hussein. Reuters reported Sunday from Washington, quoting U.S. officials.

U.S. foreign policy officials said that other countries must now play a greater role in supporting the peace process and maintaining stability, but that they were looking to King Abdullah to assume his father's role of mediator between the Arab world and Israel.

"I think it's an important symbol for the president to try to build the same kind of relationship with the new king that he had with King Hussein," a White House official said of the meeting between Mr. Clinton and King Abdullah after the funeral.



Yitzhak Rabin, Bill Clinton and King Hussein at the 1994 Jordan-Israel peace accord signing.

JORDAN: As Nation Mourns Hussein, Abdullah Is Sworn In as King and Son of Queen Noor Is Named Crown Prince

Continued from Page 1

It was a day of genuine grief in Jordan, as people wept in the streets, mosques sounded with readings of sacred verses from the Koran, and mourners huddled in the rain outside the hospital where the late king's body lay.

In capitals around the globe, it was also a day of genuine sadness, as statesmen paid tribute to the wisdom, courage and humility of a man some called one of the great figures of the 20th century.

During a reign that lasted nearly 47 years, King Hussein lost half his kingdom to war with Israel in 1967, and he fought off coups and assassination attempts. But he emerged through the decades as a force for moderation in a region wracked by extremism — often to the dismay of fellow Arabs appalled by the public and private overtures that finally brought peace with Israel.

"Through good times and bad, through health and illness, he showed the power of a strong will applied to a worthy cause,"

Mr. Clinton said in a statement from Washington. The president said he believed the late king "will smile on us one more time" when the Middle East is finally at peace.

The death of the king left Jordan in the hands of a young, untested monarch who was thrust to prominence just 13 days ago, when the father — in a brief return home after six months of cancer treatment — named him as crown prince, in place of his brother, who had held the post for 34 years. That shift brought hints of discord within the royal court, and it raised questions about whether a King Abdullah would be capable of meeting the challenges of leadership in a country with a troubled economy and warring neighbors.

But in the days since, diplomats have said they have been heartened by signs of maturity from the young man and by his strong signals that he intends to maintain his father's commitment to a broader Middle East peace.

The new king's rise to power has been dizzying. Until Jan. 25, he was an army

major general and had not figured highly in speculation about which of King Hussein's sons might one day assume the throne.

On Saturday, as his father lay dying, Parliament invested the crown prince with the full powers of the monarchy. On Sunday, in his debut as king, he offered gestures both to continuity and family unity.

King Abdullah was accompanied to Parliament by every other senior male member of the royal family, including his uncle, Prince Hassan, 51, who had been expected to become the next ruler.

In a poignant moment, the new king paused as he approached the podium, standing at full attention, his back to the audience, before a full-length portrait that showed his father in military dress, as a young man.

The designation of Prince Hamzeh as crown prince and designated heir is a departure from Hashemite tradition, in which a king should be succeeded by his eldest son. But it follows the example set by King Hussein in 1965, when he named Prince

Hassan as successor at a time when his own eldest son was just 3.

King Abdullah's son, Prince Hussein, is 4. But more important to the decision, Jordanian analysts said, may have been the wishes of King Hussein, who had regarded Prince Hamzeh as his personal favorite.

Because Crown Prince Hamzeh, unlike King Abdullah, is a son of Queen Noor, the late king's fourth wife, the choice will almost certainly bowd a royal family that has sometimes displayed divided loyalties. Royal palace officials said that the queen and his children were all at King Hussein's bedside at the time of his death.

The king had never regained consciousness since his return Friday to Jordan from the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, where doctors had concluded that they could do no more in his battle against non-Hodgkins lymphoma.

The king was on a respirator at the time of his death, palace officials said, but a progressive organ failure that had already claimed his lungs, liver and sole remaining

kidney finally stopped his heart and caused his brain function to cease.

The cabinet met immediately to proclaim his son as king, and news of the death and the ascension was announced swiftly on Jordanian television, which showed a portrait of the late king draped with the country's flag. The news of the announcement was preceded, as is customary in the Arab world, by readings from the Koran.

King Abdullah delivered his televised address less than 90 minutes after his father's death, flanked by Jordanian flags, his wife, now Queen Rania, and pictures of his father. "This is God's judgment and God's will," he said. "God bless Hussein, the father, the brother, the commander and the man."

Within minutes, it seemed as if an entire nation was in tears. First scores, then hundreds of people began arriving at the locked gates of the King Hussein Medical Center, abandoning cars behind police barriers blocks away and walking through chilling rain to stand beneath a portrait of the king.

INTERNATIONAL

Quake Hurt Colombia's Peace Efforts

By Larry Rohter
New York Times Service

BOGOTÁ — The powerful earthquake that struck Colombia last month not only killed a thousand people and leveled an entire city. It also dealt a significant setback to the government's efforts to negotiate an end to more than three decades of armed conflict with leftist guerrillas, according to political analysts and diplomats here.

The peace effort was already stumbling after the announcement just days before the quake that the main rebel group, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, was suspending its participation in the talks, which began on Jan. 7.

But the earthquake's chaotic aftermath has both weakened the hand of President Andres Pastrana and distracted his government, while offering new opportunities to his adversaries on the left and the right.

Mr. Pastrana, who took office last August, made major concessions to the rebels to bring them to the negotiating table, temporarily ceding to them an area the size of Switzerland.

Though the war-weary public approved of those actions, the slow and inept official response to the earthquake on Jan. 25 and the widespread looting that followed have clearly damaged the government's credibility and undermined public confidence in the security forces.

"The army and the police have not been able to protect us from the vandals, and they have not been able to furnish us with the relief supplies we need," said Javier Cardona, an automobile mechanic in Armenia, the city most severely affected by the quake. "So tell me," he said, "how are they going to be able to deal with the guerrillas?"

Though Manuel (Sureshot) Marulanda, the principal rebel leader, was born in the earthquake zone, his forces have never been able to make much headway there.

The region is filled with small landowners who grow coffee, rather than peasants who work at low wages for plantation owners. And electricity, water, schools and other public services are more plentiful than in many other rural areas where the guerrillas have established footholds.

"In this part of the country, we like to work hard and make money, not mess around with politics," said Gustavo Mejia, who lives in Armenia and works at a coffee-processing plant.

"There's not much sympathy for the guerrillas around here," he said.

But Colombian political analysts worry that such attitudes may change as a result of the mishandling of relief efforts.

Mr. Pastrana has proposed spending hundreds of millions of dollars on reconstruction efforts in Armenia and other stricken parts of the coffee zone. But doing so will force him to revise his plans to outflank the rebels and win over their base of support in other areas.

Government forces will remain clear of the 40,000-square-kilometer guerrilla-dominated area through at least May 7, said a presidential peace envoy.



A family in Colombia scavenging through the rubble left by the earthquake.

BRIEFLY

Nairobi Bomb Suspect Won't Be Extradited

NAIROBI — After claims that the suspect had been tortured and unlawfully detained, a Kenyan high court has stopped the FBI from extraditing a Kenyan mechanic to the United States for further questioning about the bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi last year.

On Friday, a court in Mombasa ordered that Ali Salim either be released or be brought before a Kenyan court as soon as possible. It also ordered the immigration department to prevent security agents from taking Mr. Salim out of the country.

Mr. Salim was arrested last Thursday by FBI agents who suspected that the mechanic's garage might have been used to build the vehicle that transported the bomb to Nairobi. (LAT)

Algerian Rebels Kill 7

ALGIERS — Islamic rebels slashed the throats of seven villagers overnight in southern Algeria, government security forces said Sunday.

The forces said on state-run radio that the killing took place in the hamlet of Sfisifa in Laghouat Province, 340 kilometers (210 miles) south of Algiers.

"The seven villagers were killed by terrorists in a cowardly way," the government said, using the formula used by officials to mean that rebels cut the throats of their victims. The killing was at least the fifth massacre of villagers in the past two months.

At least 14 people were killed in two rebel raids six days ago in Chlef Province, 160 kilometers west of Algiers.

Thousands of civilians, mostly poor peasants, have been killed in the past three years in massacres attributed to Islamic rebels. Violence has racked Algeria since 1992 when the authorities canceled a general election. (Reuters)

Mexico State Elections

LA PAZ, Mexico — The governing party faced tough challenges Sunday from the opposition in governors' races in two states that start the countdown to the 2000 presidential elections.

The performance of the governing Institutional Revolutionary Party, known as PRI, will be under close scrutiny in the governors' races in the northern state of Baja California Sur and the southern state of Guerrero.

The PRI has been in power for the past 70 years in Mexico, longer than any other governing party in the world. But the PRI's popular support has declined recently in states where party discipline has not held. (Reuters)

CLINTON: Senators Keep the Heat On Over Censuring President

Continued from Page 1

did not justify his removal from office.

Some Republicans, however, contend that censure is unconstitutional as it is not mentioned as part of impeachment proceedings. They have threatened a filibuster to prevent such a resolution from reaching a vote.

One influential Republican, Senator Phil Gramm of Texas, said censure was unconstitutional and a threat to the constitutional doctrine that protects the separate powers of the legislative, executive and judicial branches of government.

When an earlier president, Andrew Jackson, was censured, he said, it set "such a dangerous, terrible precedent for eroding the separation of powers that we came back and overturned it," Mr. Gramm said on NBC.

Senator Judd Gregg, Republican of New Hampshire, called censure "political cover" — a means for some senators to vote for acquittal while making a gesture toward conservative constituents. "Our choice is to vote up or down on the articles," he said. "That's what the Constitution says."

The votes of 60 senators are needed to end a filibuster, making the future of the censure movement unclear. Many senators are agonizing at the thought of casting a vote that Mr. Clinton or his supporters could portray as a vindication.

"I would like to see something that

makes it very clear that this behavior is not acceptable," said Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, Republican of Texas, a strong censure supporter.

The Blumenthal dispute appeared unlikely to affect the movement toward Mr. Clinton's acquittal. "We certainly shouldn't extend this trial one second longer because of it," Senator Jay Rockefeller, Democrat of West Virginia, said on NBC.

Mr. Hitchens, who writes for the Nation and Vanity Fair, said he had heard Mr. Blumenthal repeatedly refer to Ms. Lewinsky as a "stalker" at a lunch both men, and Mr. Hitchens's wife, attended in March. Asked about it by House investigators, he gave an affidavit to that effect Friday.

In his testimony on Wednesday, Mr. Blumenthal said he had heard Mr. Clinton use the word "stalker" in a conversation about Ms. Lewinsky. Asked how that story made it into the press, Mr. Blumenthal replied, "I have no idea how anything came to be attributed to a White House source."

Mr. Hitchens said Sunday that he knew other reporters who had heard the "stalker" story from Mr. Blumenthal, although he declined to identify them and said he would not do so even if subpoenaed.

Mr. Hitchens said he took Mr. Blumenthal's comments as "a threat against a potential witness — a very vulgar and crude one" — whom the White House

would "morally destroy."

He also said that Mr. Blumenthal had hinted at efforts to discredit Kathleen Willey, the former White House volunteer who accused Mr. Clinton of fondling her, a charge that the president denied.

Mr. Blumenthal's lawyer, William McDaniel, called NBC to read a statement, in which Mr. Blumenthal said he did "not recall the luncheon with my then-friend of 15 years."

"The notion that I was trying to plant a story with this rabid anti-Clinton friend is absurd," he said.

Some Republican senators seized on the flap as confirmation of allegations that Mr. Clinton sought to obstruct justice by planting stories aimed at intimidating Ms. Lewinsky.

Mr. Gramm said Republicans would insist that the Justice Department conduct an expedited investigation of the matter.

"Absolutely, it is very serious," Senator Joseph Lieberman, Democrat of Connecticut, said the Blumenthal matter should be forwarded to the Justice Department "without delaying the final steps of this impeachment trial."

But House prosecutors, while insisting that the alleged incident confirmed their charges, said they had no affidavits from other journalists and did not plan to seek any.

ISRAEL: A Mixture of Grief and Wariness

Continued from Page 1

by a single moment: when King Hussein paid a condolence call to the families of Israeli victims of a Jordanian gunman, kneeling to hug them as they wept, tears in his eyes. The scene played repeatedly on Israeli television Sunday.

"The king said one sentence I'll never forget: 'I promise you peace,'" said Miriam Meiri, whose daughter was killed in the 1997 incident. "It gave me the strength to get up the next morning with a smile and tell Yaela, my daughter in heaven: 'There will be peace.'"

Mr. Weizmann will lead a broad Israeli delegation to King Hussein's funeral in Amman on Monday. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will join his political rival, Ehud Barak, the Labor Party leader, as well as former Prime Ministers Shimon Peres and Yitzhak Shamir and Mr. Rabin's widow, Leah.

Mr. Netanyahu, who had a rocky relationship with the king that oscillated between businesslike and chilly, delivered bountifully praising remarks Sunday about King Hussein as "a historic figure" and "a great man, a man who knew war and grew to hate it."

He said he was confident that Abdullah would "follow in his father's footsteps and strengthen the peace between us."

the parallel strategic interests of Israel and Jordan, which share a long border, quiet since 1967.

"The contacts with Israel have been developed and maintained by a wide variety of people and institutions in Jordan," said Asher Susser, an expert on Jordan at the Dayan Center at Tel Aviv University. "That remains in place, and is not solely dependent on the personality of King Hussein."

Israel and Jordan need each other, as they have historically, since the days of quiet alliance between David Ben-Gurion and the Hashemite monarchy. For Israel, Jordan, as a moderate country in a strategic location, serves as a buffer state to absorb and deflect regional threats from countries like Iraq and Syria.

And for Jordan, Israel is the key to negotiating its interests in the West Bank when final status talks between Israel and the Palestinians tackle such issues as borders, water and the return of Palestinian refugees, most of them from Jordan.

"These are topics of contention with Arafat," Mr. Alpher said, referring to the Palestinian leader. "King Hussein would have been hard put to stand up for Jordan, and, now that Arafat will be the senior partner in the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship, his successor will be at a real disadvantage."

Until two weeks ago, former Crown Prince Hassan had been charged with finessing these issues as a seasoned diplomat well known in the region.

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T H A I A I R L I N E S

ASIA/PACIFIC

China Dissident Freed After Nearly 10 Years

The Associated Press
BEIJING — A Chinese dissident released after almost 10 years said Sunday that he had committed no crime and played no part in the protests that landed him in prison.

Sun Weibang, 56, was released Thursday from a prison in eastern Shandong Province after serving more than nine and a half years of a 12-year sentence imposed after a government crackdown on the 1989 student-led protests centered on Tiananmen Square in Beijing.

"I'm still my old self," Mr. Sun said by telephone from his hometown of Qingdao on the eastern coast. "Although I have a spot of high blood pressure, I'm healthy and my spirit is good."

Mr. Sun's release comes amid an aggressive government campaign against dissent that has resulted in lengthy prison terms for other democracy activists over the past two months. Six members of a would-be opposition party have been imprisoned, the three most influential leaders receiving sentences of 11 years or more.

The release might have been timed to counter criticism of the crackdown during two days of human rights talks between China and the European Union that were scheduled to start Monday in Berlin.

Mr. Sun said that his 12-year sentence had been reduced while he was in jail but that he had not expected to be released until Dec. 9. He said he did not know why he was freed early.

Mr. Sun ran a small restaurant in Qingdao and provided free food to student protesters. Although he said he played no

part in the demonstrations themselves, he was sentenced for counterrevolutionary "propaganda and incitement."

Mr. Sun also spent one year and two months in jail in the early 1980s for participating in the Democracy Wall movement.

"I hope we can join the global community," Mr. Sun said Sunday of China, "and that citizens can widely and freely express their own wishes."

He also said he hoped to go to the United States but first needed to take care of his ill 86-year-old mother.

More than 2,000 people who were rounded up in the nationwide wave of arrests that followed the Tiananmen Square crackdown remain in jail, according to the Hong Kong-based Information Center of Human Rights and Democratic Movement in China.

Amnesty USA said in a report last month that 250 people remained imprisoned for "peaceful participation" in the protests.

Activists for New Party Detained

Chinese authorities detained a Sichuan-based opposition party activist Sunday as the outlawed China Democracy Party stepped up preparations to hold a nationwide discussion forum, dissident sources said, Agence France-Presse reported.

Beijing police detained Lin Xianbin on his way back from visiting a friend, the Information Center of Human Rights and Democratic Movement in China said.

Mr. Liu, a close associate of the veteran dissident Xu Wenli, who was jailed for 13



RESIDENCY DEMAND — A group of immigrants from the Chinese mainland protesting Sunday outside the Central Government Office in Hong Kong for immediate residency rights. The territory's highest court ruled on Jan. 29 that any Chinese person with one Hong Kong parent had the right to live in Hong Kong.

years for subversion in December, was arrested near the State Meteorological Bureau, the center said. Both dissidents are linked to the outlawed party, which announced plans Saturday to set up a national committee, less than two months after Mr. Xu and three other activists were given lengthy prison sentences.

Two other activists for the banned party, Chen Zhonghe and Xiao

Shichang, called in an open letter for the secretary-general of the United Nations, Kofi Annan, and the UN human rights commissioner, Mary Robinson, to attend the March 1-3 party forum in the central city of Wuhan.

"The major goals and topics of this forum will be to exercise the rights of free association," said the letter, which was released via the U.S.-based Free

China Movement.

A Beijing activist, Gao Hongming said Saturday that party members from Beijing, Hubei, Liaoning, Tianjin, Shanxi, Hebei, Hunan and North America had agreed to form a national committee. But a Liaoning member, after brief detention by the police, said no branch of the party had been formed in the northeastern province.

Mahathir Vows To Keep Power As His 'Duty' To Malaysia

The Associated Press

KUALA LUMPUR — Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamad vowed Sunday to stay in power until "somebody shoots me or tries to assassinate me," dashing expectations that he might soon step down.

Mr. Mahathir, 73, who has governed Malaysia for 18 years, said calls for his resignation were useless and that he would relinquish power only when he found a trustworthy successor.

"Even if I am cursed or even if I am told I should go away, I will stay on because I have a duty to the country," Mr. Mahathir was quoted by the national Bernama news agency as saying.

Mr. Mahathir has come under pressure to step down since September, when he dismissed his popular deputy and his apparent, Anwar Ibrahim, over allegations of corruption and sexual misconduct.

"Now I will not resign," he was quoted as saying. "I will stay here unless somebody shoots me or tries to assassinate me like some people are thinking."

He added that he had hoped to step down last year but now had to ensure that Malaysia was not led by "someone who tells lies and who pretends to be pious when he is not."

Mr. Anwar, perceived as a devout Muslim, is now on trial. He denies the charges, calling them part of a political conspiracy. After his ouster as deputy prime minister he led anti-government rallies that resulted in his arrest Sept. 30.

His wife, Azizah Ismail, said Saturday that she might challenge Mr. Mahathir for his seat in Parliament in the next general elections. If she won, Mr. Mahathir would have to quit as prime minister. Elections must be called before April 2000.

Mr. Mahathir became Asia's longest-serving head of state when President Suharto of Indonesia was ousted last May after more than 30 years in office.

Last month, he named a former foreign minister, Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, to take Mr. Anwar's job. Shortly afterward, Mr. Mahathir assured Malaysians that there would be a smooth transition of power. "I will not be here forever," he said. "I am almost 74 years old."

On Sunday, he dodged reporters' questions about whether Mr. Abdullah was his chosen successor. "I don't know," he said. "Anything can happen from now until the party election."

Government to Fight 'Slander'

The government plans to set up a special team of lawyers to act against media reports that "slander" the country's leadership, according to news reports.

Mr. Abdullah said the panel would examine magazine and newspaper reports to determine whether they were "baseless" and had been "made to embarrass" the governing party, the United Malays National Organization. "There have been too many instances, where individuals take advantage of freedom of speech to make all sorts of accusations and allegations against the party leaders and the government," Mr. Abdullah said in an interview with the New Straits Times newspaper.

"This unhealthy practice cannot be allowed to go on," he said.

Ibrahim Ali, a deputy minister in the prime minister's department, said last week that the government was paying close attention to the speeches and newspapers of opposition parties.

Harakah, a tabloid published by the Islamic opposition party, supports Mr. Anwar and has been openly critical of Malaysia's leadership.

Hishammuddin Hussein, head of the youth wing of the United Malays National Organization, said the legal panel was not an attempt to silence dissent but to protect the government from "wild accusations" such as those in Harakah. "If it means it is going to be a litigious society where everybody is suing each other," he said, "let it be."

BRIEFLY

India-Pakistan Talks Due

NEW DELHI — India and Pakistan are due to hold a fresh round of talks this month on the bitter territorial dispute over Kashmir and other security issues, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Sunday.

But the spokesman said Pakistan had not yet confirmed the proposed dates, Feb. 18 to Feb. 20, which had been reported in newspapers.

Another meeting is planned for March, when officials plan to discuss less contentious issues including a maritime boundary dispute and commercial ties. (Reuters)

North Korea to Be Topic

SEOUL — The United States, Japan and South Korea will meet in Seoul this week to discuss cooperation against the growing military threat from North Korea, officials said.

During the one-day talks Tuesday, key topics will include a North Korean underground facility suspected of being used for nuclear weapons development, officials at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade said Saturday. (AP)

Kuril Dispute Simmers

TOKYO — Japan staged its annual rally Sunday to demand the return of the Russian-held Kuril Islands despite fading prospects for a settlement of the issue this year.

Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi told a convention that he would do his best to sign a World War II peace treaty with Russia by next year. The treaty can only be concluded after the territorial dispute has been settled.

The Kurils, occupied since 1945, are known in Japan as the Northern Territories. (AFP)

An Activist Kills Himself

KARACHI, Pakistan — A wheelchair-bound opposition activist shot and killed himself at a news conference in southern Sindh Province, witnesses said Sunday.

Before he shot himself, Agha Jehangir Khan, 35, told journalists, "I have fought for democracy, but now I am helpless."

The activist from the Pakistan People's Party had been paralyzed since 1986 as a result of an incident linked to the movement for the restoration of democracy. (AFP)

Indonesia Warns Rioters

Mob Burns Provincial Parliament on Borneo

The Associated Press

JAKARTA — Indonesia's military chief warned that he would crack down on troublemakers after mobs burned down a local parliament building Friday.

In the latest outbreak of violence, rioters destroyed the legislature in Pontianak, the capital of the province of Kalimantan Barat, a newspaper reported.

The riot was sparked by residents' anger over a plan by the Home Affairs Ministry to appoint three men to top positions in the local administration, the Kompas daily reported.

Many Indonesians in regions far from Jakarta distrust the central government, which they accuse of skimming off much of the wealth in their areas.

In Jakarta, General Wiranto, the commander of the armed forces, said Saturday he would not tolerate violations of law and order.

"I have commanded my personnel to, without any hesitation, protect the people from certain destructive individuals or groups," the general said at a news conference.

General Wiranto has made similar statements in the past, but the security forces have failed to stem periodic violence in this Southeast Asian nation of 210 million people.

In Pontianak, security officers were outnumbered and unable to prevent rioters from smashing windows and doors, destroying furniture and setting the building on fire.

Kompas quoted Colonel Encip Kadarusman, the local military chief, as saying that some fearful residents had fled their homes. The city is on Borneo island and 670 ki-

lometers (420 miles) northeast of Jakarta.

Indonesia has been plagued by riots for the past year. The unrest reached a peak in May with President Suharto's stepping down.

But economic hardship and religious, ethnic and political tensions have contributed to street violence since then.

Death Toll Rises in Aceh Province

A human rights group said Sunday that the death toll from a clash between civilians and security forces in Aceh Province last week has risen to 21, Reuters reported from Jakarta.

On Wednesday, the police opened fire as they tried to disperse a crowd of about 5,000 people listening to a separatist speech in Idi Cut, east Aceh, 1,530 kilometers northwest of Jakarta.

"The total number of dead bodies discovered so far is 21," Hamzah Yakob of the Legal Aid Institute said.

The bodies were pulled out of a local river and all had gunshot wounds.

Mr. Yakob said at least eight of the bodies had been weighed down in sacks with stones.

Aceh, which has centuries-old traditions of separatist struggle, has been in a state of civil war since the beginning of the year.

Colonel Johnny Waboh, military commander for Lhokseumawe, in the northern tip of Sumatra, said the death toll from the shootings currently stood at seven but the number might rise.

A team of police and military police has been sent to the area.



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EUROPE

Serbs and Kosovars
Begin 'Serious' Talks

Foes Meet Separately and Review a Proposal

By Charles Trueheart
Washington Post Service

RAMBOUILLET, France — Yugoslav authorities and ethnic Albanian rebels from Kosovo province completed their first full day of peace talks with international mediators on Sunday, and a spokesman characterized the early round of negotiations as "constructive, businesslike and serious."

Holding councils in different rooms of a 14th-century chateau in a forest 55 kilometers (35 miles) southwest of Paris, negotiators representing Yugoslavia's Serbian president, Slobodan Milosevic, and three factions from independent Kosovo on Sunday reviewed a draft settlement plan and three annexes concerning Kosovo's future elections, its constitution and the role of a permanent ombudsman.

The foes, who have not yet met face to face except at Saturday's opening ceremony, are engaged in a two-week effort to complete a closely scripted process under the diplomatic lash of a triumvirate of American, European and Russian facilitators representing the international community. NATO aircraft poised to rain bombs on Yugoslavia provide a constant background incentive to compromise.

Few details of the conversations emerged from behind the heavily guarded iron gates surrounding the Rambouillet chateau, and four spokesmen from Britain, France, Russia and the United States refused to entertain questions of substance, many of which they termed hypothetical.

"The most important thing I can say," said the U.S. spokesman, Phil Reeker, at an evening press briefing, "is that the two delegations are here. They came in spite of the odds and the difficulties."

Mr. Reeker said their seriousness of purpose was evidenced by their joint condemnation, in a statement issued on Sunday, of the latest killings in Kosovo. (Three people, including a woman and a child, were killed in a bomb attack on an Albanian-owned food store in the center of the provincial capital Pristina on Saturday evening, Reuters reported from Rogovo, Yugoslavia.)

The delegations and negotiators are working, sleeping and taking their meals buffet-style within the confines of the chateau in rooms equipped with computer equipment, the spokesmen said.

"Our expectation is that they will remain in the chateau until they reach an agreement," the U.S. ambassador Christopher Hill, who is one of the negotiators, told the BBC in an interview broadcast Sunday.

"There is no going to be any free time," he said. "No one is planning to play volleyball or Ping-Pong with each other."

There are no working facilities for journalists in the small village of Rambouillet. Local cafe tables are covered with laptop computers and parking lots are crowded with television trucks.

The working basis of a settlement calls for a period of transition to increased self-government — "substantial autonomy" is the term used here — for Kosovo's 2 million people, the vast majority of whom are ethnic Albanians.

Whether the Kosovo delegations, which include the armed guerrilla forces of the Kosovo Liberation Army as well as two more moderate groups, will agree to settle for less than a guarantee of an eventual referendum on independence is one question hanging over the Rambouillet talks.

Whether the Yugoslav leadership, and that of its predominant Serb republic, will agree to recognize enhanced sovereignty for Kosovo — the ancient heartland of Serbs — is another.

Serbs fear that more autonomy for Kosovo will lead inevitably to its absorption into neighboring Albania, creating an ethnically united "Greater Albania" in the Balkans and a potential menace to what remains of Yugoslavia-Serbia and the tiny Montenegro republic after nearly a decade of fracture, war and retrenchment.

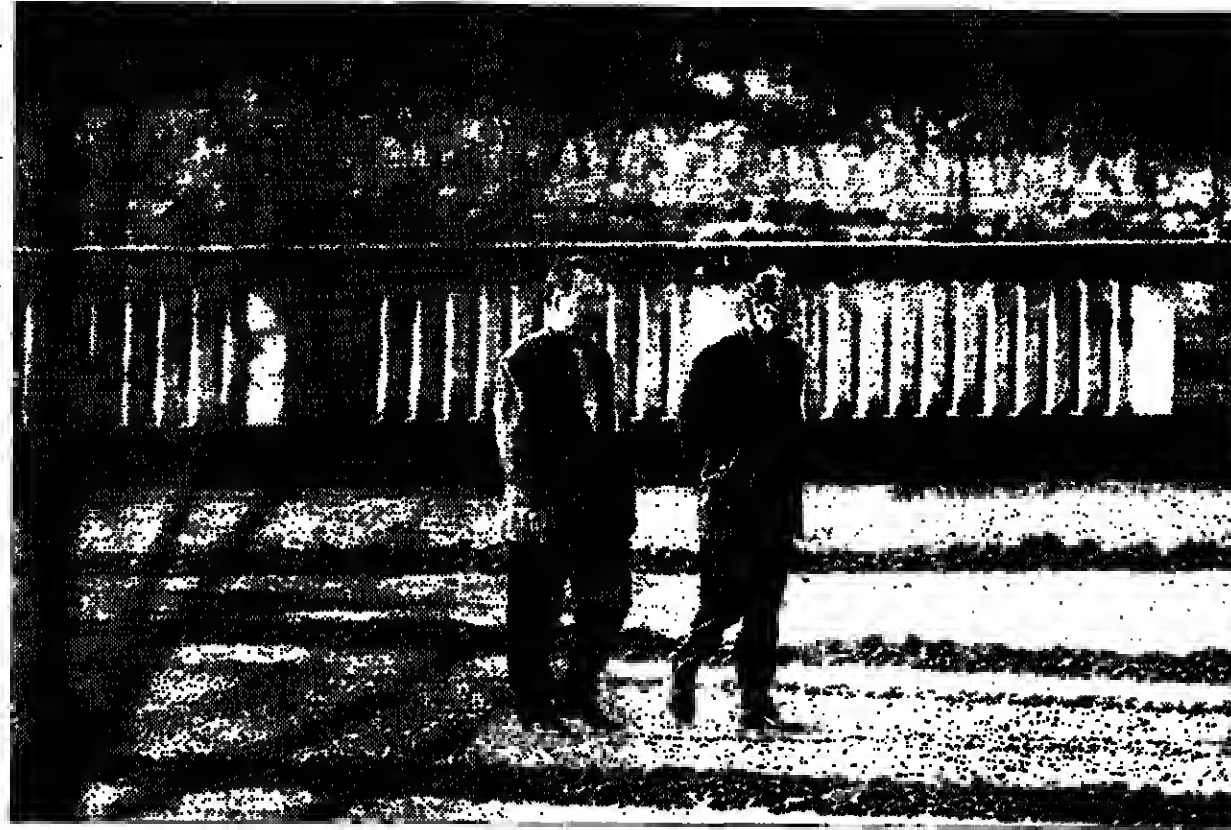
"We can't accept a Greater Albania, an independent Albanian Kosovo or a Kosovo that would become a third republic inside the Yugoslav federation," said Vuk Draskovic, the onetime Milosevic opponent who joined his government as deputy prime minister less than three weeks ago.

Kosovo will remain within Serbia, Mr. Draskovic declared in an interview with the Paris newspaper *Journal du Dimanche* that was published Sunday. He said the Yugoslav government was prepared to compromise and to guarantee certain liberties to Kosovars so long as the province's minorities enjoyed them too.

Mr. Draskovic, whose power to speak for Mr. Milosevic is not clear, said that "the superpower" — the United States — was prepared to guarantee the territorial integrity of the Serbian state, then a large Serbian police and army presence in Kosovo would not be necessary.

A Condition for U.S. Troops
Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said Sunday that U.S. ground troops would not be sent to Kosovo if fighting between the Serb forces and the Albanian separatists continued, Reuters reported from Washington.

"We are not going to be there if there is fighting — that is very clear," Mrs. Albright said on the ABC News program "This Week."



Ibrahim Rugova, right, a key Kosovo negotiator, strolling Sunday on the grounds of the Rambouillet chateau.

Use of Force in Kosovo Splits NATO

By Joseph Fitchett
International Herald Tribune

MUNICH — The best clue to the outcome of talks on the future of Kosovo may lie in the tale of U.S. pressure on its allies to adopt a tough line that finally brought the Serbs and ethnic Albanians to the negotiating table.

At the heart of the diplomatic maneuvering over the last two weeks was a clash between an American emphasis on the threat of force and a European preference for diplomacy.

The European allies have acknowledged that U.S. insistence on possible intervention coerced Slobodan Milosevic, the Yugoslav leader, to accept the talks. But trans-Atlantic divergences about the threat of force to achieve an agreement could still wreck the talks, U.S. and European officials said Sunday.

An early misstep had to be hastily corrected this weekend when U.S. officials discovered that Britain and France, the countries hosting the negotiations at Rambouillet, southwest of Paris, had proposed a draft peace plan that omitted a section about military measures to enforce an accord. Annex 1A about a stabilization force on the ground in Kosovo had been forgotten, so it's being put back in now, a U.S. policy maker said.

But the negotiators still do not have a team of military experts to assess the security problems that could arise.

Getting a firm international front that

forced Serbia and the ethnic Albanians to the negotiating table took arm-twisting by Washington, including direct appeals to allied capitals by Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, to end a threat by France to block intervention.

France wanted authority for air strikes to be vested in the six-nation Contact Group but the United States insisted that the NATO secretary-general, Javier Solana, should be able to initiate hostilities if the political process failed because of "intransigence" by any of the parties.

But Western officials appear satisfied with the process that melded NATO threats and a political strategy into a single international approach to the crisis. "U.S. and Anglo-French diplomacy have both been arduous and this step could help crystallize the new trans-Atlantic teamwork that we see all want," said Robert Hunter, an analyst with the Rand Corp. in Washington. He was the chief U.S. delegate to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization for five years starting in 1992, when Western inaction and mutual recriminations about Bosnia brought the alliance close to collapse.

For the Europeans, "it's a gamble and they're already getting a taste of what it takes to deal with Belgrade, but it could be a real step for the Europeans, at least for their self-esteem," a U.S. official said.

The risk is that "they get carried away by their need to succeed and settle for a bad agreement," an aide to President Bill Clinton said. Along with Mr. Hunter, he and other officials, who asked not to be quoted by name, were speaking at the Munich Security Conference, a two-day meeting of experts and officials.

This distribution of roles — with U.S. power and authority underpinning a peace bid organized under European auspices — is evident in the workings of the Rambouillet talks. Hosted by France and Britain, the negotiations will be handled by three mediators, chief among them Christopher Hill, the U.S. ambassador to Macedonia, who has worked with the Serbian authorities and with ethnic Albanian representatives to produce a blueprint for autonomy in Kosovo.

This semi-imposed settlement was adopted by the six-nation Contact Group

of nations handling the crisis: the United States, Russia and four European countries: Britain, France, Germany and Italy. Now Mr. Hill will be the man on the spot to ensure that the two warring parties accept all the crucial points before the Contact Group proclaims victory. The two other mediators are a Russian diplomat and an Austrian diplomat seconded to Germany, which currently holds the rotating presidency of the European Union.

If the Contact Group's plan fails, Mr. Solana has the trigger to order air strikes to coerce the two sides to settle. As a result of Mrs. Albright's forceful lobbying, France lost its bid to require Mr. Solana to seek approval from the Contact Group before using force, with Washington excluding any subordination of NATO to another political authority.

A potential problem was the attitude of Moscow, but a British official said, that Russia was finally "squared" last month by Mrs. Albright who was in Moscow for nuclear arms talks and found her bilateral discussions overtaken by the Kosovo crisis. She informed Moscow that Kosovo, which threatened to overshadow the U.S.-hosted summit meeting in April to mark the alliance's 50th anniversary, left the Clinton administration no alternative but action.

Igor Ivanov, the Russian foreign minister, agreed that the threat of NATO air strikes had become unavoidable.

The breakthrough came at a critical moment for international solidarity. Over the previous week, Washington had sought allied agreement to threaten air strikes against Serbia in response to the massacre of 40 civilians by Serbian police forces in the village of Račak on Jan. 15. As a condition for backing a NATO ultimatum, European governments had insisted on a setting a political strategy for exploiting the West's military leverage — a condition accepted by Washington at a Contact Group meeting in London on Jan. 24. "It wasn't just the French, it was all the Europeans, including the British who wanted public diplomacy before air strikes and a plan for implementing a solution with ground troops," a U.S. official said.

BRIEFLY

Protesting Farmers
Warned by Greece

ATHENS — The government warned Sunday that protesting farmers would face arrest if they carry out threats to block Greece's main highway.

Farmers in central Greece plan to line their tractors along the main highway between Athens and the port city of Salonika on Monday and eventually block the country's main north-south traffic route.

"We will not allow anyone, with their illegal and anti-social behavior to block traffic and hurt the general population," Dimitris Reppas, a government spokesman, said. (AP)

U.K. Calls for End
To Ulster Deadlock

LONDON — The British government appealed to both sides of Northern Ireland's divided community Sunday to break a deadlock over the scrapping of guerrilla weapons that threatens the province's peace process.

Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland secretary, acknowledged that the process crowned by last April's agreement was having problems.

Mr. Mowlam said there was night on both sides of the dispute over "decommissioning" of weapons, but that there was a need for compromise between the pro-British Protestant majority and republicans. (Reuters)

Population Control
Revisited in Hague

THE HAGUE — Eager to slow the birthrate as the population of the planet fast approaches 6 billion, voluntary organizations met Sunday to map strategy before a United Nations population conference.

Hundreds of agencies that have worked to carry out ambitious goals set at a 1994 international population conference in Cairo were drafting a report to be presented to the weeklong Hague Forum, opening Monday.

With the world's population projected to hit 6 billion later this year — an increase of 20 percent in 12 years — the focus was on progress in family planning, women's rights, reproductive health care services and AIDS prevention. (AP)

Moscow Draws Line
On NATO's Growth

MUNICH — Russia warned Sunday that NATO expansion into countries of the former Soviet Union would ruin chances for further Russian cooperation with the alliance.

The Russian deputy foreign minister for European affairs, Yevgeni Gusev, said Moscow considered the former Soviet borders as the limit beyond which NATO expansion would be viewed as a threat.

"Upon crossing that line, the possibility of NATO-Russian cooperation, of which we spoke so warmly today, would be practically nonexistent," he said at a security conference in Munich. (Reuters)

Mahathir Vow
To Keep Power
As His 'Duty
To Malaysia'

KUALA LUMPUR — Mahathir bin Mohamad vowed Sunday to stay in power until "the last day of my life" or tries to assassinate him, saying he had no other choice.

Mr. Mahathir, 68, said he would resign only if he found a trustworthy successor who would relinquish power without a fight.

"Even if I am not elected, I should go away because I have a duty to Malaysia," he said, adding that he would not step down until he had found a trustworthy successor.

Mr. Mahathir has been in power since 1981, and his resignation would be a major event in Malaysian history.

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In Cold Tbilisi, Some Corruption Helps

By Steve Levine
New York Times Service

TBILISI, Georgia — When they lost electricity and heat in winter four years ago, most Georgians could only shiver in the dark.

On the way to the bread lines, they walked carefully to avoid stepping on corpses of people who had died scavenging in the night.

Now Marina Kokobadze knows instantly what to do when the power fails. Pulling a plug from one socket, she presses it into another — the socket linked to what is called the "second electric line," which a corrupt minister installed for the equivalent of \$30, plus \$10 a month in "fees."

"It's as simple as that," said the woman, sipping tea near the cherished line leading from her window to an unseen power source beyond.

A common part of the landscape here and in other suffering parts of the former Communist world, such lines are slender consolation in a nation once known as perhaps the most relatively prosperous in the former Soviet Union, and now among the most miserable.

They attest to the vast corruption that underlies Georgia's deprivation, choking the nation and deflating trust in its leader, President Eduard Shevardnadze, a man respected abroad for his role in ending the Cold War as Soviet foreign minister, but widely criticized at home by both local residents and resident diplomats.

In November 1994, about \$400 million in unpaid bills for natural gas and electricity imports finally provoked suppliers like the government of Turkmenistan to sever the flow of energy to Georgia, creating the most dreadful winter in Georgians' memory.

Georgia's 5.5 million people have gradually learned to cope — even if in most cases that means a 19th-century existence of kerosene-fueled space heaters and wood stoves as sources of heat, hot water and light.

That has led to black humor. In a common outburst, people in Tbilisi wish for the death of some neighbor because, as a goodwill gesture, the government provides days of uninterrupted electricity to entire blocks when a funeral is under way.

Only the lucky, like Miss Kokobadze, can afford the bribe for the second line — which is acquired by asking openly at the state power office.

Even her "fee" provides only enough power for one lamp and the television set. The "elite" option of power 24 hours a day costs an initial \$250, and higher monthly charges.

"We cannot live this way for long," said her husband, Gia Gogoladze, 44, a builder in Tbilisi. "Every day, every year, it is worse and worse, backward and backward, my work less and less."

Yet President Shevardnadze might argue that this is progress. Under his leadership, Georgia has recovered from the low of 1993, when civil war in a breakaway region, Abkhazia, threatened to engulf all Georgia.

Two years later, Mr. Shevardnadze, who had been chief of the KGB in Georgia in the Soviet era, outmaneuvered and arrested armed gangs that made much of the nation lawless.

Then, with the help of the International Monetary Fund, he launched a national currency that, despite a devaluation caused by Russia's economic chaos, is still among the region's most stable.

Some teachers and policemen have not been paid in months and a variety of ethnic conflicts bedevil the country.

Germany is sending its chancellor minister, Bodo Hombach, to the talks Monday in Washington.

"If, in fact, a resolution isn't reached, we are planning to go far beyond blocking a merger between Deutsche Bank and Bankers Trust," the source said. "In effect, we would try to impose a kind of disinvestment campaign, following the pattern of South Africa under the apartheid regime."

A Deutsche Bank spokesman rejected accusations Saturday that the bank was covering up deals with the Nazis. "We are not playing hide-and-seek," he said.

Rabbi Marvin Heir, a Holocaust researcher, has said the bank knows far more than it is making public, citing a 1946 U.S. military report that says it contributed to projects of Hitler and the Gestapo chief Heinrich Himmler.

The World Jewish Congress wants the bank to make "material reparations" to Holocaust survivors and their heirs.

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EDITORIALS/OPINION

Herald Tribune

PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST

Finish Up in Public

The House managers finished putting on their case against the president in his impeachment trial on Saturday. They proved what America already knew: We have written before that this is a president who regards the truth as something to be manipulated rather than to be told. He lies, and does so most particularly when he is in trouble with regard to his own behavior and in his own defense. He has done it before; he did so in this case.

The videotaped testimony through which the country — that part of it which could any longer bear to watch — was introduced to the live Monica Lewinsky and reintroduced to Vernon Jordan provided only a reminder, and confirmation.

Whether the president, in the course of the lies, committed a technical criminal offense for which he could ever be convicted we have no idea. His lawyers say "no"; the other side suggests "yes." But that is not what is at issue here. He disrespected his office, lowered the standard of public behavior that he has taken oaths to uphold, put another fat question mark after the public trust on which democratic government depends. Those are his offenses.

The question is not what he did — which everyone understands was wrong, whether or not illegal — but what to do about it. He leaves the country with no good choices, which may be his greatest disservice. The alternatives are to lower the standard of judgment, or lower the standard of impeachment.

Our own sense continues to be that he should be left in office but unmistakably censured. The polls suggest that this is the public's view as well. The two-thirds vote required to remove him is clearly lacking in the Senate; some senators say there may not even be a majority for either article of impeachment. They are arguing about the wording of a possible censure resolution. We hope they find the right mix.

The Senate has acquitted itself fairly well thus far, certainly by comparison with the House of Representatives. An agreement on censure would be the right capstone.

The president's spokesman has promised that however the proceedings end, the White House will be a "gloat-free zone." No one ought to believe that. The president and his people will spin this one when it is over. They will portray it as having been a partisan effort to inflate into a high crime and misdemeanor a relatively trifling offense. The clumsy behavior of the House will support that. A bipartisan and unambiguous resolution of censure on the part of

the Senate is the right response.

The one other piece of business is how to conduct the final debate. To conduct it in secret ought to be unthinkable. Yet such unnecessary secrecy is precisely what will happen unless two-thirds of the senators can rise above the traditionalism of the Senate to dispense with a silly rule — which dates from the Andrew Johnson impeachment — that requires the final debate on the articles of impeachment to be held behind closed doors. A motion by Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, Republican of Texas, to open the final debate is coming up for a vote. It should be passed.

Previous efforts to open the trial have failed, with both Republicans and some Democrats bowing to tradition or to the perception that opening the proceedings would lead to grandstanding for the cameras. This time, however, should be different. Those debates — which certainly should have been public — dealt only with procedural questions about the conduct of the trial. This, by contrast, is a debate on the articles of impeachment themselves.

Sensors will have no more serious obligation in their careers as legislators than the consideration of the evidence that they have heard over the past few weeks. And the public has no greater interest in anything the senators do than in how they process that material and intellectually convert the complex web of information presented them into a yes-or-no vote.

In the absence of some compelling reason to deny the public access to that debate, the heavy presumption in favor of openness must prevail. There is nothing sensitive at issue in this debate, save the potential embarrassment to senators of having to go on the record defending the indefensible positions or waffling in between these two extremes. There is no national security information involved in the case, and no legislative question of similarly minimal sensitivity would conceivably be held behind closed doors anymore.

Sensors are not jurors, who are required as citizens to consider the evidence against a peer and for whom secrecy is a basic protection. Senators actively asked the public for the responsibility of considering matters like this one. They have no right to deny the public access to their thinking on how they will accomplish perhaps the most weighty task they were sent to Washington to perform.

To fail to pass Ms. Hutchison's motion would be to place the purported dignity and history of the Senate above any conception of its duty.

—THE WASHINGTON POST.

Futile War in Africa

Few nations can less afford war than Ethiopia and Eritrea, yet many of the 200,000 troops facing each other on their common border were battling on Saturday and Sunday. The immediate cause is a dispute over ownership of a 650-square-kilometer triangle of rocky land of consequence to neither nation. The real problem is that leaders of both feel compelled by honor to stand their ground. The cost of their stubbornness could be one of the deadliest international wars Africa has ever seen.

The situation is particularly tragic because Eritrea's president, Issaias Afewerki, and Ethiopia's prime minister, Meles Zenawi, were friends and allies who fought alongside each other during the long guerrilla war that defeated Ethiopia's Marxist dictator in 1991. Two years later, Eritrea, which had been part of Ethiopia, gained its independence, with Ethiopia's blessing. Although they disagreed on where to mark their border, the two nations promised to work it out. Mr. Issaias has since then picked fights with several neighbors, but the outside world viewed him and Mr. Meles as two of Africa's most promising leaders.

After a series of small aggressions by both sides in 1997 and 1998, Eritrean troops entered the disputed territory last May, claiming that it was rightfully Eritrean. The Organization of African Unity, the UN Security Council and the United States have all told Eritrea that it must pull out its troops, and then let the United Nations decide on the border and begin negotiations on the details. The two sides have signaled that they might allow this, but they cannot agree on who would administer the area while the border decision was being made.

Both countries seem to be doing

their utmost to escalate this seemingly minor dispute into a major war. Since last May, the two nations — among the poorest in the world — have spent some \$300 million on weapons.

By its own count, Ethiopia has expelled 30,000 people of Eritrean descent, most of them Ethiopian citizens. Amnesty International, which has documented even midnight arrests of elderly hospital patients, claims that the number is nearly double that. The government says the deportees belonged to clandestine pro-Eritrean organizations, but it has provided no proof to the deportees, some of whom do not know the specific charges against them. Many of those targeted seem to be successful businessmen, whose businesses are then closed or turned over to ethnic Ethiopians.

Eritrea, for its part, has no policy of deportation, but it has created a climate of fear that has forced 22,000 ethnic Ethiopians to leave. This ethnic cleansing has strengthened hard-line views on both sides.

If there is still a chance to avoid war, the outside world must play a part. Russia and other nations that are selling arms to the region should end this shameful practice. The Organization of African Unity, which has provided a good framework for negotiations, must remain engaged. So must Washington, which has sent Anthony Lake, the former national security adviser, to the region four times since the crisis began.

But the key is for Mr. Meles and Mr. Issaias to end their abuses and belatedly rhetoric and look for a face-saving compromise. If they do not, they will destroy the nations that they spent decades struggling to create.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Now We Can Be Serious About Population Politics

By Steven W. Sinding

NEW YORK — More than 100 nations gather in The Hague this week to review progress in carrying out the consensus commitment which emerged from the United Nations' 1994 population conference in Cairo.

The consensus said that an affordable mix of noncoercive, high-quality reproductive health services, if made available to every couple who wanted them, was the most humane and also the quickest route to population stabilization. The price tag: a very modest \$17 billion per year by 2000.

The conferees in The Hague will learn that countries have committed less than half the \$17 billion that they pledged in Cairo. It turns out that economists share much responsibility for this disappointing state of affairs.

After Thomas Malthus's early predictions of famine and death proved wrong, and for as long as global population growth remained very slow, few people paid demography much heed. Then, after World War II, the world discovered that sharp declines in mortality had wrought a global population explosion.

The first postwar generation of eco-

nomists agreed in the 1960s and '70s that rapid population growth in low-income countries condemned those countries to underdevelopment and poverty. The prescription: Find a way to get population growth rates down.

This neo-Malthusian consensus was broken in 1986 when a review by the U.S. National Academy of Sciences concluded: "The connections between population growth and development are complex and difficult to measure quantitatively. Through adaptation and substitution, markets may reduce adverse effects." This point of view prevailed in mainstream economics, reinforcing an aversion to international family planning assistance through the Reagan and Bush administrations.

Now, however, economists have done another about-face and appear to be returning to the view that demography matters — some say a lot.

This latest generation of economists, using new research methods and analyzing the performance of developing countries through the 1980s and into

the '90s, find that where populations have grown most rapidly, economies have done worst.

They also find in many of the developing world's most successful economies that reducing population growth in the last quarter-century has helped both to stimulate economic growth and to reduce levels of poverty and income inequality.

These economists have discovered what they call a "demographic bonus" — the extra kick that an economy gets when, as a result of cutting high population growth, the size of the young dependent population decreases.

The savings that result from less demand for child health, education and food permit the kinds of investment that can propel societies into increased productivity, output and well-being.

The demographic bonus does not ensure that these things will happen. But it has given many countries the chance to raise living standards dramatically and escape widespread poverty. Examples include South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Tunisia, Mexico and Brazil.

As a result of rapidly declining fer-

tility in many parts of the world, more and more countries are now poised to cash in on the demographic bonus.

In the 1960s and '70s the world was convinced, mainly by economists, that it had a population crisis, but countries had few clues about how to deal with it. Some governments panicked and imposed coercive population control policies, creating a major backlash in the years that followed.

Gradually, nations learned that a voluntary approach responding to couples' individual reproductive goals was the best one — only to have the ground cut out from under them by economists who wondered what all the demographic fuss was about.

We seem at last to have entered an era of agreement on both the diagnosis and the solution. We can hope that the nations meeting this week will follow through with the funds needed to finally bring about the long-sought, elusive stabilization of world population.

The writer, director of the Population Sciences division at the Rockefeller Foundation, contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

From Brazil, Too, a Warning to Alter the Architecture

By Jim Hoagland

WASHINGTON — Brazil's money and its international investment ratings crumbled last month after a long period of anxiety. The slow-motion collapse in South America's economic giant leaves the world's financial wizards, mutual fund managers and big banks (a) agast, (b) scared witless, (c) secretly relieved and perhaps even smiling ear to ear.

If you choose (c), you get the gold star of the wacky world of international high finance. The globalized economy dodged a bullet from Brazil and spins on. Contagion has been contained along the Copacabana shoreline, at a short-term cost to world taxpayers of no more than \$3 billion a month.

The long-term costs of the Brazilian fiscal crisis are another matter. Relief that monetary upheaval in Brazil has not wildly ricocheted through world markets should not divert attention from the serious structural problems that still loom for the global economy, or make policymakers treat those problems less urgently.

Were that to happen, the already faltering efforts in the Group of Seven industrial nations to devise new international financial architecture to prevent or mitigate the devastation visited on Thailand, Indonesia, South Korea, Russia and elsewhere in the past 18 months will become even weaker and more forlorn.

That would be unfortunate, and ultimately dangerous, for the world's industrial powers in their relations with developing countries.

What did happen to Brazil shows why — a cut in the standard of living, a surreptitious closing down of some lines of international credit to Brazil, and the creation of new

pressures on yet another country to export its way out of a crisis rooted in globalization.

It suggests that Brazilians will join Mexicans, Thais, Koreans, Indonesians, Russians and others in concluding that the citizens of emerging markets are made to bear the burden of the laboratory experiments of the new global capitalism.

To be sure, there is rough justice in all of these cases. As elsewhere, Brazil's own policies and choices created the mess that caused international investors to bail out. But once again the apparent result of rescue efforts by the IMF, backed by the U.S. Treasury, has been to buy time and space for investors and foreign banks to avoid or cut losses, while local workers and consumers shoulder the burden of an uncertain recovery.

Redo Dayton on Bosnia, and Do a Deal on Kosovo

By Thomas L. Friedman

OSLO — Before troops are sent to sort out the Serbian-Albanian civil war in Kosovo, could we talk about this for a second? If ever there was a time for an honest reassessment of U.S. policy toward Bosnia and Kosovo, it is now.

And what that reassessment would conclude is that the Dayton accords should be redone. Otherwise, U.S. troops are going to be in Bosnia and Kosovo forever, without solving either problem.

Take it from David Owen, the former British foreign secretary who also served as the European Union's special negotiator for Bosnia from 1992 to 1995.

Point 1. Recognize how the

major powers got themselves tied up in knots in Bosnia.

When Yugoslavia collapsed in the early 1990s into its statelets, the West insisted that these regional boundaries become the new, unchanging international boundaries. The result, in the case of Bosnia, was that a good number of Serbs, Croats and Muslims were trapped into living together, even though a significant number of them did not want to.

Point 2. The Dayton accords tried to get around this by dividing Bosnia into semi-autonomous subregions — 49 percent going to the Bosnian Serbs and 51 percent to a Muslim-

Croatian Federation—but then tying them together under a single, central government.

This kept Bosnia's borders intact. But some of the people inside still hate each other, and peace can be maintained only by keeping U.S. and other NATO troops there. To think that Bosnia today is a self-sustaining multiethnic state is pure fantasy.

Still, there has been some progress. The Serbs of Bosnia are now divided. Those living around Pale want absolutely nothing to do with a multiethnic Bosnian state, but more moderate Serbs living around Banja Luka are increasingly ready to live in Bosnia under a Muslim-led government.

Point 3. Kosovo is a province of Serbia and is 94 percent Albanian. The Kosovo Albanians had autonomy inside Serbia, but after all the killings between Serbs and Kosovars, the latter are demanding independence. Says Lord Owen: "There is no way that Serb President Slobodan Milosevic will grant Kosovo independence, even if there is a referendum, and, at this stage, there is no way the Kosovars will settle for anything less. Trying to impose autonomy on Kosovo is like trying to push water uphill."

But that is exactly what the peace talks that began this past weekend in Rambouillet, France, are trying to do.

Adds Lord Owen: "It's time to drop our reservations about redrawing international borders and to have a Balkan solution for a Balkan problem."

Point 4. That solution would be to acknowledge that two communities want out of the states they are now stuck in. The Pale Serbs want out of Bosnia so that they can join Serbia, and the Kosovo Albanians want out of Serbia so that they can be independent.

Therefore, argues Lord Owen, let's go to Slobodan Milosevic and say that for every square kilometer of Kosovo he is ready to give up and turn over to the Kosovars, he will be given in return the same amount of square kilometers around Pale, which he can then annex to Serbia.

You could solve several problems at once. With the Pale Serbs out of Bosnia (and with some pressure on the Croats there to be more supportive of the Muslim-led government), you would greatly increase the chances that the remaining Serbs, Muslims and Croats in Bosnia could live together — without foreign troops.

Moreover, by giving Pale to Mr. Milosevic you compensate him and the Serbs for letting Kosovo go, and therefore you increase the chances that the Kosovo problem can be solved without foreign troops or endless bloodshed.

The only way NATO troops are going to get out of the Balkans, and stay out, is if a majority of people there are living where and with whom they want. You want to keep the borders fixed? Fine. Then at least acknowledge that NATO troops will have to sit on the factions living inside these fixed borders forever.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES.

France Airs Its Slant on America

By William Pfaff

PARIS — An extremely useful clarification of French-American relations was provided last Wednesday in a report by my colleague John Vinocur in the International Herald Tribune.

The present French government has adopted a considered policy of trying to block unilateral actions by the United States in world affairs, and of strengthening or reforming the United Nations, the IMF, the Contact Group on Yugoslavia, the OSCE and other international bodies in which the United States does not have a totally free hand and can be forced to compromise.

This is not a particularly new policy for France. It goes back to Charles de Gaulle and World War II, when the United States initially planned to install an Allied Military Government in France, in which French leaders, and the troublesome General de Gaulle in particular, would be marginalized.

When de Gaulle returned to power in 1958, he considered that the United States had interfered in France's empire and domestic affairs. His policy combined faithfulness to the Atlantic alliance whenever there was a serious confrontation with Soviet Russia (as over the nuclear missiles in Cuba) with a critical approach to the general foreign policies of the United States. He considered America's unparalleled international power, and its use of it, frequently bad for France and for the international system.

Subsequent French governments, which lacked the panache and intelligence of the general, practiced much the same policy with little real effect, since American power was so great. The other Western allies felt the vagaries of U.S. policy worth putting up with since, as

the German commentator Josef Joffe has written, "the United States is the dominant power but does not conquer."

Between French and American officials, a kind of reciprocal paranoia installed itself. The French and Americans both claim that the other side spies on their industry and intercepts their business communications. In competitions for arms, aircraft and aerospace sales, Washington likes to say that Paris is unprincipled, while Paris maintains that Washington is hypocritical, cloaking economic advantage in empty rhetoric.

The French see America promoting its own commercial advantage with its policies of free markets and extended democracy, and the United States looks for French wrecking tactics in every competition.

While the French have done well as an economic rival, particularly in organizing Europe's high-technology aerospace industries, independent French political initiatives have nearly always failed. The European allies and Japan have preferred the known qualities of the established U.S. link to ventures with unforeseeable implications under French propulsion.

That is changing. American power and presence have become so overbearing that people are reacting. Japanese officials are joining in French criticisms of U.S. policy, as was apparent at the Davos World Economic Forum last week.

A recent visit of Japan's prime minister promoted the idea of common action by Europe and Japan to prevent excessive swings in currency values and impose restraints on short-term capital flows.

More significant is the de-

veloping rivalry between the European and American high-technology industries. A year ago there was a serious clash between the European Commission's competition policy minister and Boeing, which was signing American airlines to long-term exclusivity contracts. Brussels said this was restraint of trade, and won the case.

Similar rivalry is deepening in space launchers and military aircraft sales. The ability to manufacture high-performance military aircraft and to be present in space is a matter of industrial sovereignty for ambitious countries, and contributes to economic and political sovereignty as well.

Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine has set out French policy as including systematic efforts to widen European cooperation, while continuing alliance cooperation with the United States — "combining friendship and the will to be respected, while defending in all circumstances organized multilateralism and the prerogatives of the Security Council."

This is reasonable enough, from the French point of view, even if it produces uncomfortable moments for policymakers in Washington and Paris.

It is much better that the French explicitly set out their policy, defining its aims and also its limits. The aims are not meant to be subversive of the European-American alliance but are directed against notions of hegemonic power that have increasing currency in recent Washington policy debates.

Such notions have been the unspoken background for unilateral decisions made, as Madeleine Albright has said, because the United States "stands taller and sees farther."

International Herald Tribune.
Los Angeles Times Syndicate.

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1899: French Like Tea

PARIS — The director of the Paris tea rooms, rue de Rivoli, said: "I have remarked the enormous favor with which French ladies now regard tea as compared with a few years ago. French ladies prefer it sweetened much more than the English. People seem to drink tea more as a matter of habit than anything else. I have often seen French ladies come here with their friends and take tea for the first time. As a rule they like it, and come regularly afterwards, and buy packets of tea to have it made at their homes."

1924: Painting Uproar

PARIS — When Gerald Murphy, American artist, descended upon the Grand Palais with an ocean liner in tow, he also drew in his wake a tempest of the first order. As the result of the installation of his 18-foot-

high composite painting of the Olympic and the Paris there arose a storm that ended in the resignation of M. Paul Signac, president of the Society of Independent Artists. Here was something unusual, certainly, by one of those Americans who love to smash tradition by doing unusual things. Mr. Murphy defended his painting. "If they think my picture is too big, I think the other pictures are too small," he remarked dryly.

1949: In-Law Trade

HUDDERSFIELD, England — A new program to prevent broken marriages will be tried in this Yorkshire town. The Citizen's Advice Bureau reported the vast majority of postwar marriages went on the rocks primarily through in-law trouble. A newly-married couple living with the wife's parents will trade homes with another couple living with their in-laws.

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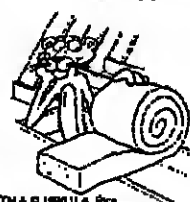
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HEALTH/SCIENCE

Nature's Fatal Beauties

How Color Protects Some of Earth's Astonishing Creatures

By Carol Kaesuk Yoon
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Many of the world's most astonishingly beautiful creatures — from fluorescent frogs to iridescent butterflies — are the most poisonous. Their bodies laced with toxins, these animals find safety not in hiding from their enemies but in drawing attention to themselves.

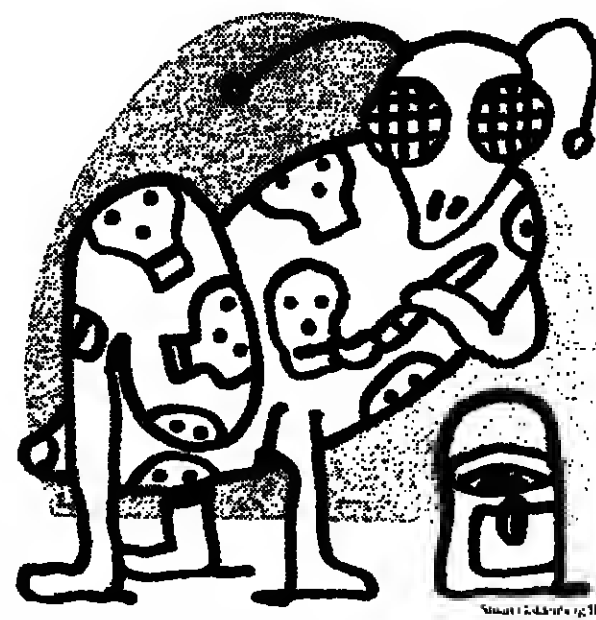
They adorn their foul-tasting flesh in a rainbow of easy-to-remember warning colors, vividly reminding every predator that has had the misfortune to taste one never to try again. The basic principle is familiar to anyone who has had food poisoning. The mere sight of the offending food, even an innocent tuna sandwich, can evoke memories that make a diner look elsewhere for lunch.

But while biologists have understood the warning function of animal colors for more than a century, they have been unable to figure out how they could have evolved. That is because bright colors keep an animal safe only if there are enough brightly colored animals around for predators to learn their lesson by taste-testing. How, biologists have puzzled, did that first brightly colored mutant, so much more obvious than all the other duller animals, avoid being chewed up, spat out and forgotten, ending the evolutionary experiment for good?

Now, research reported in the journal *Nature* suggests that one way to get around this problem is simply by being flexible. Gregory Sward, an evolutionary biologist at Oxford University, has discovered that when young grasshoppers of one species in Texas grow up alone, a situation in which warning colors would only make them more vulnerable to being eaten, they develop a "cryptic" coloration that hides them well amid the greenery of their surroundings.

But when the grasshoppers grow up in a large group eating a plant that makes them toxic to their predators, the young typically develop a bright yellow and black warning coloration that provides safety in numbers.

"Natural selection should, in theory, favor a species that can be cryptic at low densities and conspicuous at high densities," Mr. Sward said, "and I stumbled onto a species that does just that."



he providing a snapshot of one step in the evolutionary process, an example of an initial stage of flexibility that serves as a first step in the evolution of full-time warning coloration.

Deane Bowers, an evolutionary biologist at the University of Colorado at Boulder, said the new work was one of several interesting ideas being floated to explain the evolution of warning coloration.

Another hypothesis is that the first warning-colored insect was so hardy and strong that it could go it alone, able to be bitten and spat out and then walk away. Researchers have found that, over all, animals with warning coloration seem to survive attacks better.

These bright colors even puzzled Darwin. He had thought that showy hues, like the elaborate plumage of many male birds, functioned to attract mates and enhance courtship success. How then was one to explain these colors in caterpillars, which would not mate until they were butterflies? Darwin's rival, Alfred Russel Wallace, who independently deduced the principle of natural selection but lost the race to publish the theory, correctly surmised that the colors could serve to warn off predators.

NOW the Texas study has shown biologists one way in which such vivid warning colors can evolve. The new study also provides insight into the swarming behavior of a close relative of the Texas grasshopper, the desert locust, arguably the most devastating of all insects.

"In all the locust species, in fact, you have this dramatic color change from green when solitary to orange or red and black as they become gregarious," and just before they swarm, said Reg Chapman, a grasshopper specialist at the University of Arizona at Tucson. "Nobody understood what the point of it was."

The new study suggests that perhaps this color change is a warning coloration as well, one that might facilitate swarming. If locusts begin eating toxic plants in large numbers, these hordes will switch on their warning coloration and can begin fending off predators more effectively. This protection could allow them to reach higher and higher densities, eventually sending them flying off on their famous eating rampages that can stretch from India through Africa.

Repairing the Brain After a Stroke



Source: Dr. Dennis Feeney, University of New Mexico

A New Therapy for Strokes

By Sandra Blakeslee
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Doctors have found a bold new way of helping people who have had strokes recover the ability to talk and move their limbs in the first weeks and months after brain injury. Patients are given low doses of amphetamine, the common stimulant, along with intense physical therapy, a combination that appears to accelerate recovery in many people.

But, doctors caution, the treatment is experimental and may not be appropriate for all stroke victims, especially elderly people with heart disease or other serious ailments. Nevertheless, it is the first effective treatment ever found for helping people recover function after the acute phase of a stroke has passed.

The National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke in Bethesda, Maryland, is conducting a clinical trial of the method to see if it should be widely recommended for stroke patients. "We are doing everything we can to encourage research in this area," said John Marler, acting director of the division of experimental therapeutics and clinical trials at the institute.

There are three ways to combat strokes, Dr. Marler said. One is to prevent them by helping people reduce their risk factors. The second is to treat the injury within three hours using drugs, known as clot busters, that can restore blood flow and help stave off brain damage. But, he said, the majority of stroke victims wait many hours or even days before going to a hospital and by that time, it is too late to use clot busters. The third chance to intervene is days or weeks after the stroke occurs and this, he said, has been the most neglected area of stroke research.

People used to wait to see what happened next, said Leonardo Cohen, a neurologist at the institute who is running the new clinical trial. "But the idea that you cannot do anything in this period has shifted dramatically" with new findings, he said.

The adult brain is "plastic," meaning it can make new connections rapidly and can repair itself. Stroke doctors are learning how to nudge this process along, Dr. Cohen said.

Joseph Broderick, a professor of neurology at the University of Cincinnati Medical Center, estimates that each year 730,000 Americans suffer strokes, when blood flow in the brain is suddenly blocked or an artery ruptures. Half of these patients end up with some degree of permanent damage. Recent efforts to develop so-called neuroprotective drugs to use during the acute phase of stroke have not panned out, giving doctors more reason to look at the post-injury period.

Dennis Feeney, a professor of psychology and neuroscience at the University of New Mexico at Albuquerque, began by looking at animals. He discovered that rats with brain injuries similar to stroke could walk 24 hours after receiving a single dose of amphetamine.

"It seemed like exactly the wrong thing to do," Dr. Feeney said. "Giving speed to a stroke patient, you'd think it would kill him."

The basic notion was very radical, like pouring gasoline on a fire. But it makes sense, he said, given what happens to brain cells during and after a stroke.

Many neurons in the damaged region are temporarily stunned rather than killed. They may have been hooked up to cells that are now dead and messages are no longer coming in. Such cells do not know what to do, so they sit confused, waiting for instructions. Dr. Feeney said. Eventually some of them die but others find ways to make new hookups and start functioning, which is the basis of spontaneous recovery.

Some of these stunned cells are near the site of the stroke itself, but others lie in other brain regions, Dr. Feeney said. These depressed neurons are a bit like a fire gone to embers. Sprinkling them with gasoline might actually help.

Dr. Feeney and others have shown that amphetamine works by causing the brain to release a substance called norepinephrine throughout the brain. Norepinephrine is a so-called modulator that makes cells wake up, Dr. Feeney said. It makes them more responsive and is involved in learning and memory.

Amphetamine may promote the growth of new nerve connections and protein synthesis, said Larry Goldstein, director of the stroke center at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina. It is why some students take amphetamine when cramming for tests; the drugs may influence learning.

Dr. Feeney also found that animals had to be free to move around naturally when they got the amphetamine. Physical activity and the drug are interactive, he said. Dosage and timing are also important. Too much amphetamine harms animals and too little does no good.

AT THE Aphasia Center of Texas Woman's University and the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in Dallas, Delaina Walker Batson has studied 57 stroke patients, 26 of whom have received amphetamine plus physical therapy. Treatment begins 10 to 40 days after the stroke, Dr. Batson said.

"We give the drug and look at our watches," Dr. Batson said. "We wait 30 minutes and start therapy, pushing the patients until they can no longer do what we ask."

It works, Dr. Batson said. Treated patients achieve in six weeks what usually takes six months to achieve. But, she cautioned, "this is not a panacea." She added that the patients "may still have a little trouble being understood, but they are not in nursing homes."

The treatment has worked well in a handful of people, but there are good reasons why the therapy is not used more widely, Dr. Goldstein said. First, the risks are not yet known. Second, amphetamine has a terrible reputation as an addictive drug. Third, amphetamine is an old, inexpensive drug that cannot be patented. Pharmaceutical companies have no incentive to run expensive clinical trials to test it in stroke patients.

Get Up, Get Off That Couch

By Jane E. Brody
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Exercise — you know you should be doing it, but something always seems to keep you from getting started. You are not alone. More than 60 percent of Americans get little or no exercise, despite repeated reminders about the myriad rewards of regular physical activity to body and mind.

But there is good news. According to two studies published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, you do not have to exercise in the traditional sense — jogging, aerobics, cycling — to glean many of the health benefits of activity, including weight control. Just incorporate more movement into your daily routines.

Despite a plethora of diets, in the last three decades Americans have become fatter and fatter even though national health surveys indicate that we actually consume fewer calories than in years past. Because body fat cannot appear out of thin air, the explanation for the increasing weight must be that we are using significantly fewer of the calories we consume.

It does not take much to figure out why. Just look around: remote controls, elevators and escalators, clothes and dish washers, computers and fax machines, e-mail in the office, catalog and Internet shopping, gas-powered lawn mowers, and so forth. One hardly has to lift a finger to get through the day.

Steven Blair, director of research and epidemiology at the Cooper Institute of Aerobics Research in Dallas, quotes a Scottish researcher's estimate that in the United Kingdom, average energy expenditures have dropped by 800 calories a day in the last 25 years. If anything, the decline has been more precipitous on this side of the Atlantic. Even if you used just 100 calories a day less and ate the same amount, you would gain about 10 pounds (4.5 kilograms) a year, nearly all of them as body fat unless you are physically active.

William Haskell, an exercise expert at Stanford University, has calculated that if you spend two minutes an hour of each workday sending e-mail to office mates instead of walking down the hall to talk to them, you would accumulate the caloric equivalent of 11 pounds of body fat in a decade. And because body fat uses fewer calories than muscle to maintain itself, your metabolic rate — the number of calories you use up minute by minute — would drop and you would gain even more weight.

Fewer than one-fifth of Americans engage in regular, sustained, vigorous physical activity, the kind that causes them to sweat a little. The proportion of people who engage in this kind of exercise has not increased since the mid-1980s despite ever-mounting evidence that such activity can greatly reduce the risk of developing and dying of heart disease, stroke, diabetes, hypertension and osteoporosis and reduce the functional losses that accompany aging.

This lack of progress in getting more Americans on the move prompted leading health authorities a few years ago to modify their exercise advice. Rather than pushing everyone to exercise at their so-called target heart rate for at least 20 minutes at a time at least three times a week, the American Heart Association, the American College of Sports Medicine and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention took a more practical tack. They now suggest that everyone do 30 minutes or more of moderately intense physical activity on most, and preferably all, days of the week.

Possible choices include walking briskly all or part way to your destination, walking the dog, raking leaves, digging in the garden, swimming laps, riding an exercise bike, playing with the kids in the park, polishing furniture, washing the car or mopping the floor. Additional calories can be burned and the benefits of activity gained by walking up — and down — stairs, parking at the far end of

the lot, carrying groceries, even washing dishes and sweeping the floor.

Mr. Blair, among others, has pointed out that becoming more fit can take 20 years off a person's chronological age. In an interview in the current issue of *Nutrition Action Health Letter*, he noted that "unfit people start to develop limitations 20 to 25 years earlier than higher-fit people." He also cited evidence that exercise improves sleep, the ability to handle stress, the functioning of the immune system and mental outlook. People who exercise regularly feel better and have more energy, which would also contribute to a better sex life, he said.

Mr. Blair is a co-author of one of the newly published studies, directed by Andrea Dunn at the Cooper Institute. The study involved 235 sedentary and slightly overweight men and women. Half were randomly assigned to a six-month structured exercise program in a gym and the other half were placed on a program involving routine activities like walking instead of riding and taking stairs instead of elevators.

TWO years later, both groups had about the same improvements in heart function and blood pressure and, while neither group lost weight, they both reduced their percentage of body fat. At least one-fourth of the participants maintained an improvement in cardiovascular fitness of 10 percent, which could translate into a 15 percent reduction in mortality, the researchers reported.

The second study also examined the effects of structured aerobic activity versus lifestyle activity, in this case among 40 obese women who were placed on a moderate weight-reduction diet. The researchers, at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, found that both groups lost about the same amount of weight, but that one year after completing the 16-week program, the lifestyle activity group had regained less.

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CYBERSCAPE



Tom Malone teaching a class in electronic commerce at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Internet Courses Jam the Classrooms

Business Schools Face Soaring Demand for Instruction in New Medium

By Ross Kerber
The Boston Globe

CAMBRIDGE, Massachusetts — The professors teaching the hottest course this semester at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Sloan School of Management stopped taking applications after 150 students signed up for the 76 available seats.

Simply titled Electronic Commerce and Marketing, the course had far fewer takers in the past. But that was before the Internet revolution reshaped the business landscape and allowed even those with modest resources to generate quick fortunes on the World Wide Web.

Now, many business students who once imagined making their mark on Wall Street or in consulting firms dream of careers in cyberspace.

"It's like the time when you could decide whether you would continue building stagecoaches or whether you would go to a different company and start building cars," said Rob Bailey, a second-year Sloan student enrolled in the course.

"We've never seen it like this," said William DeLeay, another student. "Everybody wants to take advantage of this new movement, the Internet."

That enthusiasm seems finally to have created a critical mass at top business schools, which have begun offering courses and programs aimed at helping students capitalize on the ever-growing influence of on-line services and marketing.

Harvard Business School, for example, has opened an office in Silicon Valley to develop case studies for teaching classes about Internet start-up companies. The school is also offering a wider array of entrepreneurial courses for the increasing number of students interested in founding their own technology firms.

For its part, Sloan announced last week that, to accommodate growing student interest in the Internet, it will offer a new track of courses in electronic commerce and on-line marketing. It also plans to expand a separate Entrepreneurship Center to create and sustain local technology companies.

Similar efforts are under way at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee.

In Pittsburgh, Carnegie Mellon University's business school recently announced a one-year master's degree program to train students to run Internet companies.

Faculty members say the new

courses have been inspired in part by the recent flurry of big Internet-related mergers and the stratospheric rise in share prices at companies such as the on-line bookseller Amazon.com Inc. and the Web search firm Yahoo Inc., both just a few years old.

"The predominant view at business schools, at least until a few years ago, was that the Internet is just another channel for the distribution of advertising," said Donna Hoffman, a professor at Vanderbilt's Owen Graduate School of Management.

But in recent years, high-tech companies from the software giant Microsoft Corp. to dozens of tiny Internet outfits such as the search-engine firm Direct Hit Technologies have come to represent the fastest-growing segment of the economy.

Now the academics are taking notice. "Recruiters and alumni are making it clear that this isn't just a small change in the way advertising works," Ms. Hoffman said. "This is a change in almost all areas of commerce. They want people who can understand that."

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Rival Sees Bidding War for BMW

By John Schmid
International Herald Tribune

FRANKFURT — Auto industry takeover speculation shifted abruptly to Bayerische Motoren Werke AG over the weekend after the exit of its chairman, with a rival automaker's chief predicting imminent bidding for the German company.

"I figure by Monday, there will be at least three or four companies bidding for BMW," Robert Eaton, a co-chairman of DaimlerChrysler AG, said, responding to BMW's surprise management shakeup.

"We are not one of them, I guarantee you," he added.

BMW's supervisory board announced the departures of both its chief executive, Bernd Pischke, and his designated successor, Wolfgang Reitzle, late Friday.

The new chairman is Joachim Milberg, a little-known figure in the industry.

The Quandt family, which effectively controls BMW with a 49 percent equity stake, had lost patience with management's inability to stop losses at the company's Rover carmaking subsidiary in Britain. The family, heir to BMW's 1916 founders, in the past has guarded the automaker's independence.

A spokesman said Sunday that BMW was negotiating with the British government to secure financial backing for the struggling Rover flagship plant in Longbridge, near Birmingham.

BMW did not say how much money was involved, although the British press put the figure at between £150 million (\$245.8 million) and £300 million.

The losses at Rover are far higher than previously estimated, according to a

weekend report in the German magazine Focus, at 1.8 billion Deutsche marks (\$1.04 billion) last year, and likely to rise to around 2 billion DM this year.

BMW, which has yet to publish earnings, declined to comment. It has only said that total profit fell by an undisclosed amount last year — a record year for the BMW brand — because of Rover.

Mr. Eaton said Friday night at a San Francisco seminar that General Motors Corp. could bid for BMW. GM has denied any interest in the company.

The chairman of Volkswagen AG, who expressed interest last year in an alliance or merger with BMW, side-stepped the issue.

"I do not want to say anything about that which might bring more unrest to the situation," Ferdinand Piech told the magazine Der Spiegel.

Boeing Abandons Supersonic Jetliner

By Jeff Leeds
Los Angeles Times Service

LOS ANGELES — After NASA poured an estimated \$1.6 billion into a risky effort to help Boeing Co. develop a supersonic jetliner, the aerospace giant has decided not to build it.

Officials at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration said they had dropped the research program from their \$13.6 billion budget for fiscal 2000. Even before federal officials cut off the money supply, Boeing had slashed its involvement in the project.

With the withdrawal of Boeing — America's only civilian aircraft manufacturer — there is no U.S. company to use the technology. Blueprints and other work developed over the last decade will now be housed in NASA archives — much of it hidden from the view of the public and other aircraft builders.

Cancellation of the jetliner research represents a blow both to NASA, which has a stated commitment to support the commercial aircraft industry, and to air travelers, who now are unlikely to be flying U.S. supersonic jets for decades.

It is also the latest in a series of setbacks for Boeing. Under pressure from the Asian financial crisis and a slowdown in orders, Boeing said it included it could not invest in such a technologically ambitious project without a ready market. And NASA, faced with mounting costs on the international space station, was forced to cut spending elsewhere in its budget.

"It just wasn't clear to us that we could make a sellable commercial air-

plane," said Robert Cuthbertson, Boeing program manager for the so-called High Speed Civil Transport plane.

The project, which began in 1990, united the one-time archrivals of the aircraft industry for the first time under NASA's supervision. Engineers from Boeing and McDonnell Douglas Corp. would design the airframe. General Electric Co. and Pratt & Whitney handled the engine.

But in the end, the jetliner project crashed and burned when economic forces and scientific shortfalls collided. Government-subsidized competitors in Europe and Asia intensified their push into the global aerospace market, and in 1997 left the once-dominant U.S. industry just 55 percent market share, according to the Aerospace Industries Association.

Pressure mounted on Boeing to compete, but a bid to modernize its manufacturing of the 737 and 777 backfired, driving its production costs up, said Paul Nesbitt, aerospace analyst with JSA Research Inc., a research company. "It was a questionable program to begin with," Mr. Nesbitt said. "They obviously weren't getting there. How long do you keep throwing money down a rat hole?"

At the same time, the post-Cold War consolidation of the U.S. defense industry drove Boeing to acquire McDonnell, leaving NASA just one potential user for the technology.

But the scientists developing it proved unable to deliver a working design. Engineers tried to cut the jet engine's emissions by regulating its fuel burn to reduce the release of nitrogen

oxide. NASA officials said the components they were designing would have met the noise and emissions standards of 2010 — the initial completion date for the program.

But Boeing said last autumn it did not expect to manufacture the vehicle until perhaps 2020, and began planning to pare back its personnel on the project. "We want to slow down and let the technology evolve," Mr. Cuthbertson said.

The bulk of the program budget came from NASA, which planned to devote more than \$500 million to build a prototype engine by 2007 even after Boeing dropped out. But Daniel Goldin, the NASA chief, said last week it would use the money instead for the international space station and other programs.

Some members of Congress reacted with outrage, saying the loss of the project would allow the erosion of America's position in the aeronautics industry. Representative Dana Rohrabacher, Republican of California, chairman of the House Aviation Subcommittee, lamented the billion-dollar expense on unproductive technology. "It is frivolous to build a jet engine that will let you go faster, but that has no practical use," he said.

Without the U.S. jet, the European-built Concorde remains the only supersonic commercial jetliner flying today.

The NASA-funded effort had envisioned a 300-foot-long (91.5-meter) vehicle that would fly at Mach 2.4 and carry 300 passengers from Los Angeles to Tokyo in 4 hours and 20 minutes.

Industry studies cited as recently as 1997 indicated there would be a market for between 1,000 and 1,500 aircraft.

Brazil's Critics Wait to Be Convinced

By Anthony Faiola
Washington Post Service

SAO PAULO — Facing strong doubts about Brazil's ability to fix its battered economy, the government of President Fernando Henrique Cardoso is entering a pivotal phase in the coming weeks as it tries to prove it can avert a full-blown economic meltdown.

It will not be easy. Investors gave a lukewarm reception Friday to a new economic blueprint agreed to Thursday by Brazil and the International Monetary Fund. The Sao Paulo Stock Exchange fell 2.51 percent, and the Brazilian currency, the real, ended slightly lower at 1.82 to the dollar.

But the government plan to keep interest rates high will do more harm than good.

The preliminary IMF agreement was part of the reorganization of a \$41.5 billion loan sealed with the IMF last November in an attempt to restore confidence in the Brazilian economy, the largest in South America. The government agreed to keep the real floating on world exchange markets while working to bolster its value by maintaining high interest rates and taking other belt-tightening steps to hold down inflation.

The United States, along with the IMF, is one of the major lenders in that \$41.5 billion aid package. Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin, speaking to reporters in Washington on Friday, praised the preliminary agreement as "a good step forward" but stressed that it still needed to be "worked through."

There is growing concern that the Cardoso administration has been too

vague about the details of its monetary policy since its decision last month to let the real float freely on foreign-exchange markets.

Most of the uncertainty, economists say, comes from the dilemma faced by the government as it tries to balance the need to fight inflation by keeping interest rates high against the crushing effects that high interest rates are having on ordinary Brazilians.

Interest rates now at 39 percent have touched off a deep recession that could lead to an economic contraction of 6

percent this year. By keeping interest rates high, critics say, the government is crippling businesses and causing unemployment to increase.

High interest rates have also made consumer loans prohibitively expensive, lowering demand for products such as automobiles and television sets.

High interest rates, coupled with a weakened real, have also aggravated Brazil's biggest fiscal problem, its domestic debt. The higher rates raised the annual cost of servicing the domestic debt by \$20 billion in just the past three weeks, leading to fears that Brazil will be forced to restructure or default.

Many, however, still see default as a remote possibility. Finance Minister Pedro Malan and other Brazilian officials have rejected the idea, arguing that the \$41.5 billion IMF loan is enough

to ensure the government's solvency. Although the central bank is no longer releasing daily figures on capital flows, economists estimate that capital flight from Brazil has slowed dramatically from an average of \$1 billion a day in early January.

The government also has said that it will speed its privatization plan, although there is no timetable yet for selling off the largest state-owned companies, the oil giant Petrobras and Banco do Brasil.

In their agreement Thursday, Mr. Malan and the deputy managing director of the IMF, Stanley Fischer, in effect stated that inflation was a greater evil than recession.

The currency crisis, in which the real has lost 36 percent of its value since Jan. 13, has reignited fears of hyperinflation in a country that just

a few years ago was experiencing four-digit inflation. If hyperinflation returns, the government fears, panic could cause a huge domestic run on the real.

The government also pledged Thursday to make further spending reductions that would reduce public debt to less than 45.6 percent of the gross domestic product, the goal established in Brazil's previous agreement with the IMF.

There is considerable concern about whether Congress, which backed Mr. Cardoso in an earlier round of \$18 billion in budget cuts, has the stomach for approving additional fiscal austerity measures. But Mr. Cardoso will have to try, perhaps finding other ways to generate more cash, such as through spending cuts or by reforming Brazil's notorious tax system, where evasion is more the rule than the exception.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin praised the preliminary IMF agreement as 'a good step forward' but stressed that it still needed to be 'worked through.'

CURRENCY RATES

Cross Rates		Feb. 5		Other Dollar Values		Feb. 5	
London (d)	1.6385	2.3217	185.07	2.4284	107.28	467.30	12.852
New York (d)	1.6333	0.1418	113.22	1.4705	6.5869	285.75	7.85
Tokyo	112.30	184.64	79.52	75.32	17.13	N.A.	14.35
Taipei	1.4905	2.4344	1.0483	1.3157	0.2257	0.5216	0.1894
Zurich	1.421	2.3212	1.2544	0.9553	21.5271	0.4771	0.1894
Osaka	1.1222	0.6885	1.6012	1.2755	1.6745	7.4358	321.95
San Francisco	1.2959	0.8493	1.9706	1.5433	2.076	9.1587	396.74
Source: Associated Press.							
Euro Values		Feb. 5		Other Dollar Values		Feb. 5	
London (d)	1.6385	2.3217	185.07	2.4284	107.28	467.30	12.852
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Osaka	1.1222	0.6885	1.6012	1.2755	1.6745	7.4358	321.95
San Francisco	1.2959	0.8493	1.9706	1.5433	2.076	9.1587	396.74
Source: Associated Press.							

Strong increase in 1998 Rhône-Poulenc's earnings

"1998 saw the successful execution of our strategy to refocus on life sciences, by creating and listing Rhodia on the Paris and New York Stock Exchanges and by announcing our intention to merge with Hoechst."

"Rhône-Poulenc's life sciences businesses, and pharmaceuticals in particular, are today experiencing dynamic, ongoing growth. The 1998 earnings demonstrate that our new products, such as the anti-cancer agent Taxotere®, the anti-thrombotic Lovenox®, the insecticide Regent® and the herbicide Balance®, are the key drivers of this growth. Moreover, the re-engineering measures implemented during the year are beginning to produce positive results, particularly in terms of enhanced profitability. Today we have a strong foundation which will ensure the success of Aventis."

Jean-Benoît Fouroux
Chairman & Chief Executive Officer

1998 Consolidated accounts

Net sales: FF 86,797 billion/
13,232 billion € (+2.5%)⁽¹⁾
Net income:
FF 4,224 billion/644 million €
Excluding non-recurring items⁽²⁾:
• Net income: FF 4,210 billion/
642 million € (+23.2%)
• Earnings per share:
FF 11.45/1.74 € (+12.5%)
• Earnings per share excluding
amortization of goodwill:
FF 15.25/2.33 € (+11.8%)

Life sciences

Consolidated net sales:
FF 51,466 billion (+6.2%)⁽³⁾
Earnings from operations:
FF 8,701 billion (+25.2%)

Pharma

Rhône-Poulenc Rorac,
Pasteur Mérieux Comanget, Centron

Consolidated net sales:
FF 34,484 billion (+7.2%)⁽⁴⁾

Earnings from operations:
FF 5,716 billion (+23.6%)

Sales of strategic products today account for 25% of pharmaceutical sales, compared with 19% in 1997. Most countries experienced sales growth, with a very strong contribution from the American market.

Rhône-Poulenc
is a leading
life sciences company,
growing through
innovations
in human,
plant and animal
health



and through
its specialty
chemicals subsidiary,
Rhodia.

- Oncology (+42.4%)⁽¹⁾: Taxotere®, sold to 68 countries, +50.8%⁽¹⁾ to FF 2,244 billion; Camptor® +208%⁽¹⁾ and Gracypar® +12.8%⁽¹⁾.
- Thrombosis/Cardiology (+10.5%)⁽¹⁾: Lovenox®/Clexane® +33.1%⁽¹⁾ to FF 3,618 billion.
- Central Nervous System: Rilutek®, the only treatment authorized for ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis), +24.1%⁽¹⁾.
- Respiratory/Allergy: Nasacort® AQ +94.4%⁽¹⁾ to FF 498 million. The progressive stabilization of sales of Azmacort® (triamcinolone acetonide) is continuing, in line with objectives.
- Vaccines (+10.5%)⁽¹⁾: flu vaccines +22.8%⁽¹⁾ to FF 1,053 billion and the injectable polio vaccine, Ipol® +59.4%⁽¹⁾ to FF 406 million.

■ Plant and Animal Health ■
Rhône-Poulenc Agro,
Rhône-Poulenc Animal Nutrition,
Rhône-Poulenc Jardin, Merial
Consolidated net sales:
FF 17,225 billion (+4%)⁽¹⁾
Earnings from operations:
FF 3,586 billion (+16.8%)

Increase in sales volume of new products, such as the insecticide Regent® (Rhopral) +67.2%⁽¹⁾ to FF 799 million and the herbicide Balance® to FF 412 million for its first year in major markets. Sales of the anti-parasitic Frontline®, +62% to FF 1,773 billion, rose rapidly both in Europe and the US. The launch of the anti-parasitic Eprinomectin® (ivermectin) on the cattle market allowed Merial® to stabilize its position on this market.

Rhodia
Consolidated net sales:
FF 36,323 billion (+2.4%)⁽¹⁾
Earnings from operations:
FF 2,717 billion (+30.2%)

Rhodia continued to improve its profitability, in line with its objectives. Further progress is expected to be made in 1999.

A gross dividend per ordinary share of FF 6 will be recommended by the Board of Directors at the Annual General Meeting of shareholders, on May 26, 1999.

(1) On a comparable basis.
(2) One-time gains resulting from the listing of Rhodia, the restructuring charges in the Pharmacia Sector and Rhodia, currency costs linked to the temporary shutdown of the Crompton manufacturing unit in Luxembourg (EU) and a one-time loss linked to the divestment of certain polymer businesses.
(3) Including the impact of exchange rates.
(4) 1998 sales compared with 1997.

Investor relations:
+33 1 47 60 07 05
Internet: www.rhone-poulenc.com



Toymakers Play Up Technology

By Dana Canedy
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — The most famous glamour doll is hitting middle age. Luke Skywalker's ancestors are coming. And that little fur ball with the attitude is back — with cousins.

There is no shortage of theme material for this year's crop of toys, at which retailers will get their first look on Monday when the 96th annual American International Toy Fair gets under way in New York.

Toymakers hope that the products, which will hit store shelves this year, will ultimately land in millions of toy chests. Many reflect the growing importance of technology in children's play.

"As we move forward, you can expect to see many more examples of the use of technology in toys," said Peter Elio, chairman of the Toy Manufacturers of America, which sponsors the fair.

For instance, Hasbro Inc. is introducing e-mail versions of games like Scrabble that enable players to compete by computer. Microsoft Corp. is pushing out toyland with an expanded line of Activision plush toys with which children can interact. Mattel Inc. has several CD-ROMs that bring Barbie to life on computer as she plays "extreme sports" and dances to funky music.

Barbie is apparently in the middle of a midlife crisis. She is sporting a butterfly tattoo, glitter press-on nails and leopard-print swim wear and matching sunglasses. To commemorate her age, Mattel has created a more understated collectors' version, still with no wrinkles, that incorporates the look of the 1959 original.

Toys based on the first of the new "Star Wars" films are expected to be big sellers this year. "Episode I: The Phantom Menace," which is set in a future that predates that of the films of

the "Star Wars" trilogy, is scheduled to be released in May. So companies without products tied to the movie are "trying to launch toys earlier in the year to sort of stay out of the way of 'Star Wars,'" said Cliff Annicelli, associate editor of Playthings magazine, a trade publication.

Bandai Co., the company behind the Power Rangers, for instance, is already selling this year's action-figure versions of those characters.

Two companies that are expected to capitalize on "Star Wars" are Hasbro and Lego Group. Hasbro will introduce "Star Wars" action figures and vehicles at the fair, while Lego is coming out with a new version of its electronic Lego Mindstorms robots based on the movie's characters.

Wrestling is also a big theme this year, reflecting the growing number of World Wrestling Federation and World Championship Wrestling fans. Of course, the public-relations lift that the sport has enjoyed since Jesse "The Body" Ventura was elected governor of Minnesota in November has not hurt.

This year, Jakks Pacific Inc. and Toy Biz Inc. are battling it out with competing lines of popular wrestling action figures. Jakks has World Wrestling Federation figures, including Wrestling Superstars — yes, they simulate perspiration — and Toy Biz is countering with World Championship Wrestling figures with mechanical features.

Also this year, companies are updating recent best-sellers in hopes of keeping youngsters interested for another year. So Furby is back and has brought along some relatives. Furby now comes with new fur patterns, and Tiger Electronics, the division of Hasbro that makes the interactive stuffed animal, is refining the originals, which is likely to create a greater frenzy for the remaining few.

Now there are Furby games and ac-

cessories. And Tiger is introducing Baby Furby, a smaller version of the original that fits more easily into a backpack.

Indeed, toymakers have decided that creating a stuffed animal that simply sits there looking cute will no longer do. After all, Tickle Me Elmo and Sing and Snore Ernie proved that plush toys with personality sell well in what has typically been a slow-growth category. So companies have been coming up with new ways to make plush toys gyrate and wiggle ever since.

This year Elmo and Ernie, which are from Mattel's Fisher-Price unit, play the guitar and sing rock songs.

Once again manufacturers have created beanie everything, from Furby Buddies to Blue's Clines miniatures. With Ty Inc.'s wildly popular Beanie Babies continuing to capture the imaginations of children, toy companies that make virtually any kind of stuffed animals are making miniature bean-bag versions.

Some themes, though, have begun to wane. Virtual pets, the rage two years ago, have fizzled. Sales of virtual pets, like Tamagotchi and Giga Pets, plunged nearly 80 percent, to \$45 million last year, according to the toy manufacturers group.

Youngsters' often fleeting fascination with the toy of the moment is exactly the reason why the industry, despite all the new products, is ex-



The "Los Angeles Teen Scene Barbie" ready for display at the American International Toy Fair, which was to start Monday in New York.

pecting only a modest improvement over the stagnant results last year. For 1998, wholesale shipments were virtually flat at \$15.2 billion, and companies like Mattel and the retailer Toys 'R Us Inc. had disappointing years.

"In total, I think we can expect the combination of the toy and video-game industry will grow by between 3 and 5 percent in 1999," said Mr. Elio of the manufacturers group, "with much of the traditional toy increase coming from 'Star Wars'-related merchandise."

South Korea Awaits Verdict From Moody's

Seoul Hopes Firm Will Endorse Its Recovery

By Don Kirk
International Herald Tribune

SEOUL — After losing credibility when the South Korean economy spiraled downward in 1997, the major international credit-rating agencies are now looking to rebuild their reputations as financial conditions here strengthen.

For more than a year, the rating agencies held South Korea's sovereign ratings below investment grade before placing the country under review for improved ratings as the economy showed signs of recovery.

Fitch IBCA was the first, elevating South Korea's sovereign rating to investment grade on Jan. 19, followed by Standard & Poor's Corp., which raised its ratings for the country on Jan. 26.

Only Moody's Investor Services Inc., while guardedly optimistic about South Korea, is holding back, waiting until final checks this week before issuing a ruling that South Korean bureaucrats and foreign investors see as crucial to the country's drive to recover from near-bankruptcy 14 months ago.

"We don't want to overstate or understate the risk," said Tom Byrnes, Moody's lead analyst on South Korea. "What we don't want is for countries or companies that we rate single-A or triple-A to go into default. Then we aren't doing our job right."

The comments reflect lingering sensitivity about the rating agencies' tardiness in recognizing the problems in the South Korean economy. "They all were late in downgrading Korea, and they all were blamed for that," said Richard Samuelson, director of Warburg Dillon Read in Seoul.

The statistics now are expected to give Moody's the confidence to join the other agencies in elevating the country's sovereign rating. Foreign-exchange reserves, just a few billion dollars when the country appealed to the International Monetary Fund for a bailout in November 1997, have now soared above \$50 billion. The current-account surplus last year was about \$40 billion, and the gross national product this year is expected to grow by 2 percent, according to the Fund.

The opinion of the rating agencies is crucial to the outlook of investors with millions of dollars to pump into the economy. Specifically, "the impact can be seen in our premium on global bonds," said the South Korean finance minister, Lee Kyeung, adding that investor confidence had also improved. The agencies and the country under review may differ "about methodology and timing," said Mr. Lee, but he credits the agencies with "making their decisions with full autonomy, in an objective manner."

Some outsiders beg to differ. "The rating agencies are like gods," said Barbara Samuels, former managing director of Moody's emerging markets service and now an independent consultant. "The investment community gives the agencies too much power."

Others think the rating agencies were not just late but also overreacting when they downgraded South Korea so much in late 1997 and early 1998. "They placed Korea way below investment grade when there was no objective basis," said Philippe Delhaise, president of Thomson BankWatch Asia, which specializes in rating banks. "We downgraded Korea before the others when we saw the crisis coming in banking, but we never placed Korea below investment grade."

Gates and Wife Give \$3.3 Billion To 2 Foundations

New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Bill Gates, the chairman of Microsoft Corp., and his wife, Melinda, have given \$3.3 billion to their two foundations, according to the president of one of the foundations.

The gifts bring the total assets of both foundations to nearly \$5.5 billion, putting the William H. Gates Foundation among the top 10 foundations in the United States in terms of assets and the Gates Learning Foundation in the top 30, said Sara Engelhardt, president of the Foundation Center, a nonprofit organization that tracks foundations.

Ms. Engelhardt said that with the donations, Mr. Gates, 43, believed to be the world's wealthiest man, had given away more money than any other living U.S. philanthropist.

In 1998, the two Gates foundations gave away more than \$150 million, she said.

The William H. Gates Foundation, which received \$2.2 billion, focuses on world health and population issues and traditional grant-making to universities and dozens of other organizations.

The Gates Learning Foundation received \$1.1 billion. It will use the additional money to broaden its scope, which had focused on bringing computers to public libraries in low-income areas.

Nike Wins Dismissal of Suit Alleging It Runs Asian Sweatshops

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

SAN FRANCISCO — Nike Inc. has scored a victory in its legal battle against accusations that its Asian factories have unacceptable working conditions.

Judge David Garcia of California Superior Court on Friday dismissed a suit filed last year after finding no legal basis for charges that Nike had violated state law by misleading consumers about the job conditions of its thousands of Vietnamese, Chinese and Indonesian workers, Nike's lawyers said.

The suit came on the heels of a leaked internal report from Nike that detailed abuses in its factories in Vietnam, including excessive exposure to cancer-

causing materials and underage, underpaid employees.

"Now the company can redirect those critical resources that were diverted by the lawsuit toward initiatives for continually improving factory working conditions around the world," Philip Knight, Nike's chairman and chief executive, said.

Alan Caplan, one of a group of San Francisco lawyers who filed the civil case last April, said that the judge's ruling was a blow but that the fight would go on.

The suit demanded that Nike turn over any profit made through violations of laws regulating business practices and undertake a "corrective" advertising campaign to explain how its shoes were

produced. "We're really disappointed," Mr. Caplan said. "We don't understand the rationale for dismissing it. We intend to appeal."

The lawsuit was one of a series of attacks on Nike over conditions at Asian factories that are subcontracted to produce most of its shoes, where most workers are women aged 18 to 24.

Critics say that, contrary to assurances by Nike, these workers are regularly subject to physical punishment and sexual abuse, exposed to dangerous chemicals, forced to work overtime, and often unable to earn a "living wage" despite workdays that can be 14 hours long. Nike has denied charges that it con-

done any mistreatment. In 1992, it published a "code of conduct" that it said was intended to ensure that specific guidelines on pay and working conditions were followed at all its factories.

Mr. Knight went on to list a series of policies Nike had instituted in the year since the suit was filed. Among them were a requirement that all workers at Asian factories be at least 18 years old and an order to substitute safer water-based adhesives in the manufacturing process to try to improve factory air quality. In addition, he said entry-level workers at factories in Indonesia had had their wages increased 40 percent.

(Reuters, Bloomberg)

WORK: Some German Job-Seekers Battle the Rules of the Trade

Continued from Page 1

The work rules cover more than 90 professions, and few areas are as tightly regulated as the country's skilled crafts. Those include everything from carpentry, baking and piano repair to window washing, house painting and boat building.

Most developed countries set licensing standards for many professions. But in Germany the entrance barriers are higher than in most, the rules more complex and the punishments harsher.

House painters, for instance, need to attend classes for several years, serve as apprentices and then pass a rigorous exam before receiving a coveted *Meisterbrief*. The classes and testing alone often cost more than \$5,000, that does not include the living expenses a worker has while not earning money.

Though workers do not require full certification to work under the supervision of a master, the vast majority of craft workers either are self-employed or work in small companies that do little outside hiring.

Consider the case of Simone, 34, a roofer in the town of Hagen. After working illegally for three years, she was caught by city officials in November and given a staggering fine of 80,000 Deutsche marks (\$47,000).

"This is a profession dominated by rules, and I don't have any other job possibilities," said Simone, who did not want to disclose her full name because she is still looking for work. "The only

way I could get certified would be to live in another city for at least seven months while I attended roofing classes. I can't leave my family for seven months."

Defenders of the system argue that it protects the public from shoddy work and helps finance education programs. Besides setting rigorous educational standards, master craft workers all pay dues to national associations that run technical training centers.

The only way I could get certified would be to live in another city for seven months. I can't leave my family for seven months.

"We live in a time when quality is ever more important," said Hans-Eberhard Schleyer, secretary-general of the Association of German Handworkers in Bonn. "The strength of Germany is largely due to the strength of its middle-sized industry and to its skilled workers."

But others argue that the organized craft workers are simply shielding themselves from competition. "The main purpose of all this is to protect themselves," said Horst Mirbach, author of a book on laws governing craft workers and founder of an advocacy group in Bonn called Action for Trade Freedom. The government did ease the law last year, making it easier for people to move

between different crafts and lowering requirements for certain lines of work. But even today the rules are strict — and tricky.

One woman who is an authorized piano tuner near Heidelberg says she lives in fear of being caught repairing pianos, which she is not certified to do.

And a battle might be brewing over companies that repair personal computers, most of which never bothered to seek accreditation because the entire field is so new.

There have already been a few scuffles between traditional office-machine services and the newer computer consulting and repair companies. So far the big craft organizations have generally refrained from filing complaints, but they may not for long. "It is still very controversial," said Mr. Schleyer of the handworkers' organization.

Meanwhile, the battles are being fought by people such as Thomas Melles, an unemployed carpenter who runs an advocacy group in Woltersdorf called the Professional Association of Independent Craft Workers.

Like Mr. Hund, Mr. Melles thought he had found a loophole in the rules by registering as a "traveling" tradesman. A traveling tradesman can perform many jobs without being a master but is not allowed to advertise or keep an office.

"None of us have gotten into trouble because we weren't paying taxes or because of complaints about the quality of our work," said Mr. Melles, who was ordered to stop work last autumn.

SHORT COVER

MCI WorldCom Returns to Internet

WASHINGTON (WP) — MCI WorldCom Inc. is returning to the consumer Internet service business, announcing a new on-line service that features content from CompaServe, a unit of America Online Inc.

Subscribers to MCI WorldCom Internet will see an initial CompaServe screen that contains customizable material, including news and stock quotes. For CompaServe, the deal marks the beginning of a new plan to create customized "portals," on-line sites where people see personalized information — stocks that they have selected, for instance, or news about certain subjects.

Euro Gets a Vote of Confidence

HAMBURG (Reuters) — The president of Bundesbank, Hans Tietmeyer, said the recent fall of the euro against the dollar should not be overrated.

"One shouldn't overinterpret either the development since the beginning of the year or the last few days," Mr. Tietmeyer said in an interview with the newspaper Welt am Sonntag. "In today's foreign exchange markets, temporary technical changes, new information or estimates from one part of the world can prompt investors to reconsider their expectations." The euro has fallen about 3.5 percent against the dollar since its birth on Jan. 1.

Metal Workers Rattle Their Sabers

HAMBURG (Reuters) — Germany's metal and engineering workers union will ask its 2.7 million members to authorize a strike if talks with employers this week fail to break a stalemate over a wage settlement.

Juergen Peters, the deputy head of IG Metall, said his union wanted an agreement to come out of the wage talks on

Tuesday and Wednesday but that they were the last chance to find a solution.

IG Metall, the world's largest union, is demanding a 6.5 percent pay rise. Employers on Thursday made a new pay rise offer of 2.3 percent, which the union rejected as "ridiculous." The employers' offer also includes a one-time, profit-related bonus of up to 0.5 percent.

American and Its Pilots Halt Talks

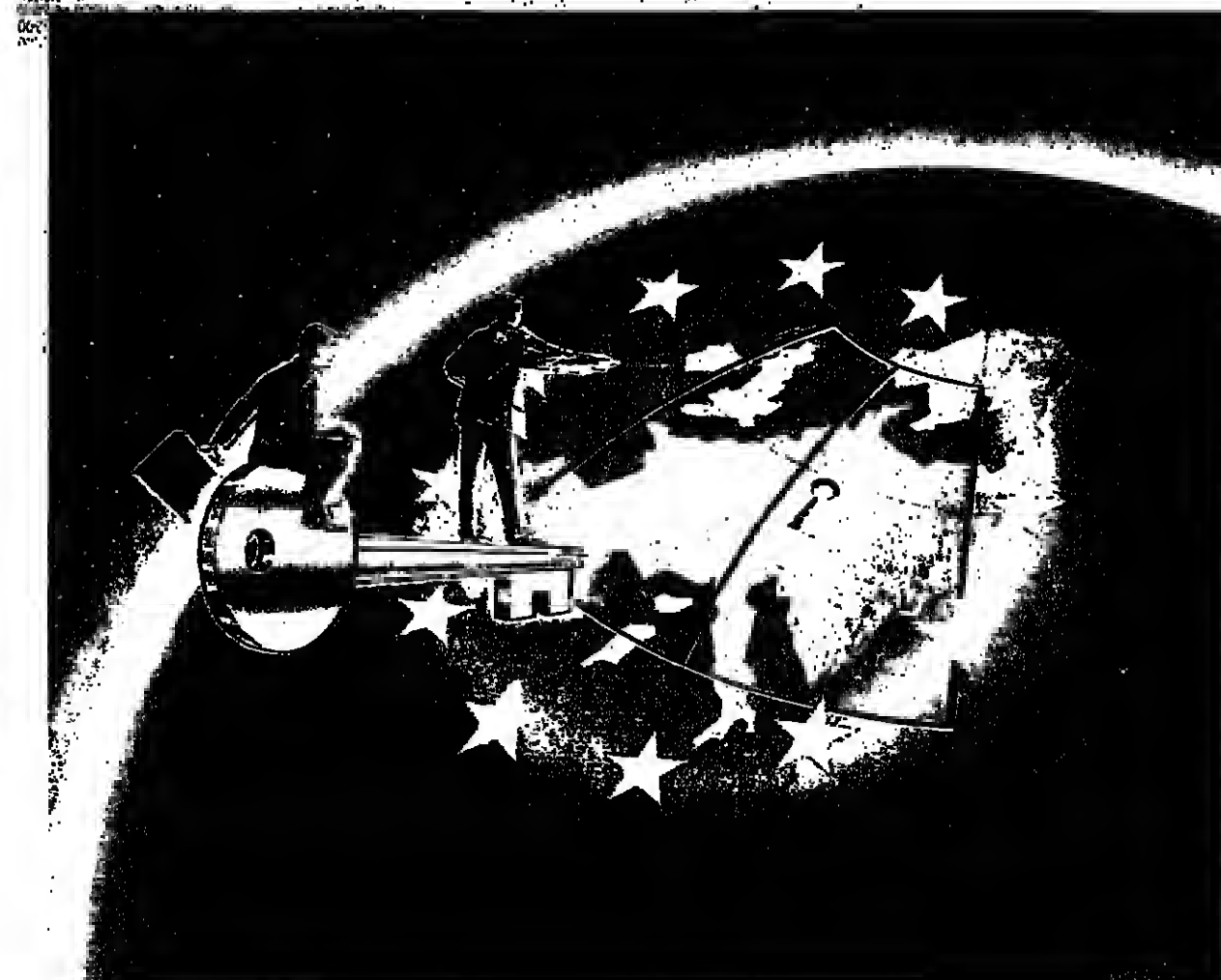
FORT WORTH, Texas (Bloomberg) — AMR Corp.'s American Airlines, the No. 2 U.S. carrier, and its pilots union ended talks over the company's purchase of Reno Air Inc., with no further talks scheduled.

American's pilots say the purchase of the low-fare carrier violates their contract and could cause them to lose flights, and jobs, to lower-paid counterparts at Reno. The pilots want to retain their seniority and not lose any to Reno pilots, a move that could affect American's pilot salaries and their flight schedules. AMR bought a controlling stake in Reno Air in December for \$124 million. The union and the company have been meeting since then to settle the disagreement over the Reno pilots. American said that it had made a fair offer to the pilots, but it did not provide details.

Ford Tries Selling Used Cars on Line

SAN FRANCISCO (Bloomberg) — Ford Motor Co., the No. 2 automaker, is selling used cars directly to customers via the Internet in four U.S. cities in a test-marketing effort that it is considering expanding nationwide.

Consumers in Atlanta, Boston, Houston and San Francisco can access Ford's nationwide inventory of used cars on Ford's Web site, www.fordpreowned.com. The buyer must pay \$300 to order the vehicle, which will then be delivered to a nearby dealership. The dealer completes the sale.



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WestLB

Figures as of close
of trading Friday, February 05

[illegible]

This table shows the performance of Nasdaq-listed mutual funds through Friday and includes the top 4,000 funds in terms of assets. There are roughly 6,150 funds currently listed on Nasdaq.

NAV is the net asset value, i.e. the portfolio value divided by the number of shares outstanding, as reported by the fund through Nasdaq. NAV excludes all sales or redemption charges. *Charges* includes:

deferral sales load; p - fund assets are used to pay distribution costs; r - redemption fee or contingent deferred sales load may apply; l - footnotes p and r apply.

Price field footnotes: n - net capital gains distribution; l - previous day's quotation; n - notes disclosed on website

3. (Continued)

...and walking through a
mean a portrait of the

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DENNIS THE MENACE

"REMEMBER YOU SAID 'SOME AFTER'?"
"WELL, I THINK I'M COMING DOWN WITH A BAD COLIC."

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Noel Arnold and Brian Hughes

RUITT
HOBBO
BRAFS
TALOZE
RAPHEC

A BARBER'S SHAVING STOLE MUST BE TIGHT!

After arranging the checked letters to form the surprise answer, the key revealed by the above caption.

Answers: JAMES, KINGS, ADAM, ACCORD, FUTURE, BURY, ANNOY, FORCED AHEAD.

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PEANUTS

I'LL HAVE TO ADMIT THAT IN MANY WAYS WE ARE A CLOSE FAMILY. BROTHERS AND SISTERS JUST NATURALLY TEND TO BE THAT WAY. SUCH CLOSENESS IS VERY ADMIRABLE...

...HAVING SAID THAT...

GARFIELD

RIIING

HELLO?

I'M BACK

HE WHAT?!

I'M GONE AGAIN

BEETLE BAILEY

I CAN'T FIND ANYTHING WRONG, SARGE

OH, GET HIM! LET ME CHECK, BEETLE!

CARBURETOR OKAY... RAIN BELT OKAY... OIL OKAY...

BATTERY OKAY

BLONDIE

YOU NEVER WENT OUT ON STRIKE, DID YOU MR. BUMSTEAD?

NO. NOT EVER

I DON'T GET IT. THE GUNS WHO DON'T REALLY NEED IT WANT MORE MONEY, BUT GUYS LIKE YOU WHO NEED IT, DON'T EVEN ASK

YOU SHOULD'VE MARRIED A PRO INSTEAD OF AN AMATEUR

CALVIN AND HOBBES

THE FEARLESS SPACEMAN SPIFF FINDS HIMSELF ON THE PLANET CLOSEST TO STAR X-351!

AN ALIEN APPROACHES... BUT IN THE BLINDING LIGHT OUR HERO CAN HARDLY MAKE IT OUT IS IT FRIENDLY OR HOSTILE?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN BED STILL? GET READY FOR SCHOOL!

DEFINITELY HOSTILE.

WIZARD of ID

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BUY A TICKET TO THE KING'S FUND-RAISER?

KING'S FUND RAISER \$5 PER TICKET

LET HIM COME UP WITH HIS OWN BAIL MONEY

NON SEQUITUR

HOW DOES THE DEFENDANT PLEAD... GUILTY, REAL GUILTY, OR REALLY REALLY GUILTY?

DOONESBURY

HONKY-TONK MAD-DUES!

AREX! WHAT'RE YOU DREAMING FROM SCHOOL SO EARLY?

OUR TEACHER SENT US ALL HERE TO WATCH THE GENUINE TRAP. HE SAYS IT'S HISTORIC!

HIS DATE IS RIGHT UP THERE WITH THE GOLD RUSH AND CHUCK AND THE GREAT AFFAIRSOM!

HELL, COME AND TRY THIS REAL YOU CAN MATCH IT ON CAN...

NITE, BUT THE MESSY YOUNG

POLITICAL JURISPRUDENCE

© 1996 Wiley Editor / Artist, by Washington Post Writers Group

By Timothy W. Smith
New York Times Service

"Most people around Tyson look at him as a money tree," said the promoter Bob Arum, president of Top Rank Boxing. "They couldn't wait until it blossomed to bear fruit. Wouldn't it have been better to get this situation in Maryland handled properly before putting him back in the ring? The people around Tyson have to take stock

received \$2.5 million following the Botha fight and was to receive the balance over Tyson's next two fights. Showtime signed Tyson to a four-fight, \$33 million deal. They also took over all the liens that the Internal Revenue Service had placed on Tyson's homes in Las Vegas and Connecticut by paying off his \$14 million tax bill.

tally fit to return to the ring, the psychologists said there was no way to guarantee that he would not react violently inside or outside of the ring. Judge Stephen Johnson thought that Tyson,

But Crawford said what happened to Saucedo and Hardick was very real and it was made worse by the fact that the accident was "at best a minor inconvenience and at worst a petty annoyance."

Arum added: "You're not going to see the end of him until he winds up dead. Unless he gets the help he needs, you haven't seen the worst of him yet, either."

Completed by Class Set of Form Demonstrator

Thomas Castagneide kicked a penalty goal with one minute to play as the

FIVE NATIONS RUGBY

Both sides gave away the ball too often and the match was riddled with basic

The Scottish forwards lined up to the right, but kicked left, straight at Matthew



and turned the game around. He scooped up a loose ball and sprinted 65 yards (60 meters) to score under the posts. Kenny Logan converted to make it 15-13.

Wales hit back with a snappy try. Scott

China Is No.

Reuters

YONGPYONG South Korea

By Charlie Nobles
New York Times Service

That pressure led to the three goals in a 10-minute span of the first half. It led

"I didn't say they played so badly," the coach said, a bit of irritation in his

skills needed to hold a winter games,"
said Kim In Yong, a vice president of

Winter Games

Reuters

"Korea now has the know-how and

medals in the six cross-country skiing races, failing only in the women's five-

but it lost, by 35-0 to China and 44-1 to Japan.

The Associated Press

The goal extended Lindros's point-scoring streak to 13 games, the longest current streak in the National Hockey League. He has 10 goals and 15 assists in that span.

final Western Conference playoff berth, despite being outshot, 27-18, and losing Roh Blake in the first period because of a game misconduct.

The Panthers notched their NHL-leading 13th tie even though Carolina

Senators 2, Flames 1 Magnus Arvedson scored the winning goal as Ottawa extended their unbeaten streak to four

as Phoenix extended its unbeaten streak to five and sent the Blackhawks to their fifth consecutive loss winding up a seven-game road trip.

North America to reach 500 career points as Anaheim battled back from two goals down to win in St. Louis.

alors, who remained tied atop the North-

games and Martin Rucmsky had his

men on the NHL's 500-point list.

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ning investigated
that has engulfed
1992 Winter Games,
most successful
short-track speed-
opening days,
which officials
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for a silver.
swept the gold
country skiing
e women's five-

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the Coyotes beat
in insurance goal
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2 first on in 10

team-lea-
scored 2
route to
Maple
scored two
with 2:2-
Curtis Joe
won in
Pentti
and Ray
goals as
visiting
without
The
leading
had seas-
3-1 tie to
son.
Bure,
be out fit-
with go-
Olausson
the sec-
North A-
points as
goals do
Olausson
Salas

Asiad was conceived in
prepare more Asian ath-
whom come from water,
or the Winter Olympics.
is no dipping said. "It has
more in other international
is very rare."

miramirato of Kuwait entered
ice hockey competition
35-0 to China and 44-1-6

Pros Goal

13th as the Canadian
times in the first period.
ery over Steve Sullivan
s 3, Devils 2. Eusebio Sullivan
including the game-winner
ft in the third period, which
made 39 saves as Toronto
Jersey.

Hurricanes 3, Marek Malik
ppard scored second period
olina rallied for a tie against
olina, which was playing
ed star Pavel Bure.
ners notched their NHL
tie even though Carolina
igh 41 shots. It was the third
in two weeks this season.

has an injured knee, could
week.

Weeks 4, Blues 3. Fredrik
defensed a goal to become just
defenseman born outside
to reach 500 career
heim battled back from two
win in St. Louis.
in fellow Swede Patrik

SPORTS

No. 1 Connecticut Beats No. 4 Stanford, 70-59

The Associated Press

Khalid el Amin had 23 points and No. 1 Connecticut rebounding from its only loss of the season and again playing without its leading scorer, never trailed as the Huskies won in California at No. 4 Stanford.

Connecticut forced 16 turnovers Saturday and held the Cardinal to 35 percent shooting to win, 70-59.

Mark Madsen had 13 points for Stanford, which fell behind by 18 points early and never caught the Huskies during the game.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Connecticut finished the first half with a 12-0 run that included a five-point play sparked by a technical foul on the Cardinal bench.

Connecticut (20-1) broke Stanford's 14-game home winning streak. Arthur Lee had 12 points for Stanford (19-4), which had been 24-0 at home against nonconference opponents over the past five seasons.

Connecticut, coming off a 59-42 loss at home to No. 16 Syracuse, played for the second straight game without leading scorer Richard Hamilton. Hamilton, averaging 22 points a game, is out with a thigh bruise.

No. 2 Duke 87, Georgia Tech 79 In Atlanta, Trajan Langdon scored 23 points, including four 3-pointers, as the Blue Devils rallied from a 10-point deficit in the second half for their 18th straight win.

Georgia Tech (13-10, 4-7 Atlantic Coast Conference) closed the first half with a 20-9 run to lead 40-35. Langdon sparked the comeback by scoring on three straight possessions, including two 3-pointers, to pull the Blue Devils (23-1, 11-0) to 59-57. He put Duke ahead for good by hitting another 3-pointer off a screen.

No. 6 Cincinnati 61, No. 3 Cincinnati 60 In Rosemont, Illinois, Willie Coleman made the second of two free throws with no time left in overtime to snap the Bearcats' six-game winning streak.

Ryan Fletcher scored all 11 of the points in overtime for Cincinnati (21-2, 8-2 Conference USA), which beat the Blue Demons (12-9, 6-5) by 23 points a month ago.

Alabama 62, No. 5 Kentucky 58 A freshman, Sam Haginas, scored the game's final five points over the last 19 seconds of tight short-handed Alabama to its first win over the Wildcats in eight years.

The Clemson Tide (13-11, 3-8 Southeastern Conference) was led by Haginas and Doc Martin. Michael Bradley and Scott Padgett each had 14 points for Clemson, which won in three days.

No. 6 Auburn 80, LSU 54 Chris Porter, not in the starting lineup for the second straight game, scored 23 points as Auburn (22-1, 10-1 Southeastern Conference) tied a school record with its 22nd win.

Maurice Carter and Omar-Seli Mance each had 12 points for visiting LSU (10-10, 2-9).

No. 7 Maryland 88, Virginia 72 In College Park, Maryland, Lommy Baxter, making his first college start, scored nine of his 14 points in the opening five minutes of the second half as the Terrapins (20-4, 8-3 Atlantic Coast Conference) snapped a two-game losing streak by beating the Cavaliers (13-11, 3-8).

No. 9 St. John's 85, No. 14 Iowa 81 Reserve Morris Peterson scored a career-high 27 points as the Spartans (20-4, 9-1) won in Iowa to run their winning streak to nine. The Hawkeyes (15-6, 6-5), have lost five of seven.

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No. 10 Arizona 81, Washington 79 Jason Terry six of his 25 points over the final 1:52 as the Wildcats won in Pullman, Washington, their sixth win this season by two points or less. Arizona (16-4, 8-3 Pacific-10) beat the Cougars (9-13, 3-8) for the 28th straight time.

No. 18 Ohio 80, No. 18 Iowa 69 Michael Ruck scored 20 points as the Buckeyes (17-6) won at Purdue (16-7, 4-5).

Villanova 75, No. 16 Syracuse 60 John Celestano scored seven straight points and Jermaine Medley hit two key 3-pointers to help Villanova (18-6, 9-5 Big East) break open a tight game at Syracuse (16-7, 7-6 Big East).

Hawaii 72, No. 17 New Mexico 68 In Honolulu, Freshman Mike McIntyre scored a career-high 19 points including a pair of clinching free throws with 4.4 seconds left in overtime as Hawaii (5-16, 2-8 WAC) rallied after trailing by 10 points in the second half. New Mexico (17-6, 4-4) lost for the first time.

No. 20 Utah 71, BYU 68 In Provo, Utah, Andre Miller had 19 points and 10 rebounds as Utah won its 13th straight game. The Utes (18-4, 8-0 WAC) have won their first eight WAC games by an average of 17.9 points.

No. 22 College of Charleston 60, Citadel 56 Sedric Webber scored 25 points Saturday night to lead College of Charleston over its outmanned crosstown rival. The Cougars (21-2, 12-0 Southern Conference) have won 18 straight.

Nebraska 69, No. 24 Missouri 61 In Lincoln, Nebraska, Venson Hamilton had 16 points, 11 rebounds, six assists and three blocked shots as the Cornhuskers (15-8, 7-3 Big 12) held off a late rush by Missouri (16-5, 7-3).

Vanderbilt 75, No. 23 Arkansas 69 In Nashville, Tennessee, Dan Langish scored 23 points and James Strong grabbed a key rebound and made two free throws as Vanderbilt (12-10, 3-7 Southeastern Conference) won over Arkansas (16-7, 5-5).

No. 25 Miami 71, Georgetown 58 In Miami, Tim James scored six of his 21 points as the Hurricanes (15-5, 9-3 Big East) beat the Hoyas (10-12, 3-10).

No. 27 Maryland 88, Virginia 72 In College Park, Maryland, Lommy Baxter, making his first college start, scored nine of his 14 points in the opening five minutes of the second half as the Terrapins (20-4, 8-3 Atlantic Coast Conference) snapped a two-game losing streak by beating the Cavaliers (13-11, 3-8).

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Rod Strickland, right, of the Washington Wizards, battling for a loose ball with John Wallace of the Toronto Raptors in Washington.

Wizards Rally to Edge Past Raptors

Dominating Defense Helps Spurs to Victory Over Timberwolves

The Associated Press
Calbert Cheaney hit a 20-foot jump shot with 11.3 seconds left as the Washington Wizards rallied from a 14-point deficit in the fourth quarter to beat the visiting Toronto Raptors, 98-97.

Mitch Richmond scored 26 points for Washington, which won its home opener for the first time since 1995. Rod Strickland, making his first start since signing Thursday, had 16 points and 11 assists.

Charles Oakley had 18 points and Doug Christie and Dee Brown scored 17 apiece for the Raptors.

Spurs 96, Timberwolves 82 In San Antonio, Sean Elliott and Tim Duncan led a balanced San Antonio attack with 22 points each as the Spurs beat the Timberwolves.

The Spurs turned in another dominating defensive performance, limiting Minnesota to 31 percent shooting and blocking 12 shots — seven by David Robinson. San Antonio held Sacramento to 37 percent shooting Friday.

Rockets 86, Warriors 84 Charles Barkley had eight of his 18 points during a 15-0 run in the fourth quarter and

rookie Cuttino Mobley hit a decisive 3-point shot with 20 seconds left as Houston won in Golden State.

Scottie Pippen added 17 points, Mobley had 13 in his NBA debut and Hakeem Olajuwon had 12 for Houston. Barkley added 20 rebounds.

John Starks had 15 points in his first game for the Warriors.

Celtics 77, Cavaliers 73 In Boston, Paul Pierce, who slipped to the 10th spot in the NBA draft after being called likely to be among the top three picks, scored 15 fourth-quarter points to carry the Celtics to victory.

Cleveland took a 58-55 lead into the fourth quarter and led 73-72 before Pierce's tip-in after Eric Riley's missed free throw gave Boston the lead for good with 40 seconds left.

Pierce had 19 points and four rebounds. Antoine Walker led Boston with 22 points. Cleveland was led by Shawn Kemp with 18 points.

76ers 85, Magic 75 In Philadelphia, Matt Geiger had 20 points and Allen Iverson had 16 points and 10 assists as Philadelphia opened 2-0 for the first time since 1990.

Geiger, who signed a \$52 million six-year contract as a free agent, heard plenty of boos after starting 0-for-4. But

Most Fans Forgiving As Wizards Return

'We Need You,' Owner Assures NBA Crowd

By Frank Ahrens

Washington Post Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — The Washington Wizards owner, Abe Pollin, stood at center court of MCI Center, just before his players sprinted through spewing towers of sparks, just before flaming "We need you" signs were lit.

"We need you. We need you," he told the seated crowd while the theme from the television show "Welcome Back, Kotter" played. "You are the lifeblood."

"You're damn right," yelled Robert Costello, a dozen rows up from court-side.

Costello, a telecommunications worker, pays \$6,000 a year for his two season tickets. He grew up watching Wes Unseld and his Bullets. The NBA lockout, which caused this season to start three months late and shortened it to 50 games, may have turned away some fans, but not Costello. He was here to watch his beloved Wizards play the Toronto Raptors.

Sure, he was bitter. "I want a little more appreciation for the money we pay," he said, nursing a \$3.50 cup of vanilla ice cream. And though the lockout was from the game, he couldn't keep away from the game.

"I need basketball," he said. "After the Super Bowl was over, I didn't know what to do."

That was the mood at the MCI Center Saturday night. All, or at least most, was forgiven. If fans were turned off by the greed-behaved owners, the strife-sowing agents or the millionaire mercenary players, spouting their offensive-to-real-working-men screed, well, those folks were elsewhere.

Ludwig Gaines and his wife, Crystal, were enjoying the buffet at the club-level restaurant, which opens to the court. He was thrilled that the NBA was back, though he was happy to feed his habit with college basketball in the interim. Still, there was an upside to the lockout, his wife pointed out: more time at home.

The lockout "was nice while it lasted," she said.

Down below, Vicki Smith said she believed that players ought to get their fair market value — she doesn't begrudge the high salaries — and points out that they have limited earning power during short careers. But her friend, Kathleen Walker, who agrees that the NBA is a big business, became annoyed at both sides during the labor dispute, bemoaning the fact that only wealthy people "can afford to play NBA wickets."

Much has changed in the NBA since the Wizards made their debut at the MCI Center last season. Chris Webber, their infant terrible, has been traded and now labors in the gulag that is the Sacramento Kings. A mural of Webber on a building across the street from MCI Center has been covered by a depiction of the Washington Capitals goalie Olaf Kolzig. The Chicago Bulls superstar Michael Jordan has retired, removing several guaranteed sellouts from each team's schedule. The defending NBA champion Bulls' lineup now reads like that of a team in the minor league CBA.

But some things were still the same: The Wizards' dance team gyrated. The concessions were expensive. And the Wizards missed a lot of lay-ups and dribbled off their shoes.

Though sports commentators have fretted that this lockout, like the 1994 baseball strike and the National Football League strikes of the previous decade, would cause die-hard fans to lose their innocence, those at the MCI Center were a more savvy lot.

"We're getting used to strikes in pro sports," said Frank Goldstein, a season ticket holder. His son, Matt, 15, wearing a Wizards cap and a Calbert Cheaney jersey, was equally unscared. "I love this game," he said, parodying the league's motto.

By the end of the game, the Wizards had shaved a 14-point deficit and the crowd finally awakened. Cheaney hit an open jumper with 11.3 seconds left to put the Wizards up 98-97. A last-second lean-in by the Raptors rolled off the rim as time expired. The crowd erupted. Balloons cascaded from the ceiling.

The NBA was back in town.

SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL

NBA FINALS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

W L Pct GB

Boston 2 0 1.000 0

Orlando 1 1 .500 1

Washington 1 1 .500 1

New York 0 2 .000 2

New Jersey 0 2 .000 2

CENTRAL DIVISION

W L Pct GB

Indiana 2 0 1.000 0

Milwaukee 1 1 .500 1

Chicago 1 1 .500 1

Cleveland 0 2 .000 2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

NORTHWEST DIVISION

W L Pct GB

Seattle 2 0 1.000 0

Portland 1 1 .500 1

Vancouver 1 1 .500 1

MINNESOTA DIVISION

W L Pct GB

Minnesota 2 0 1.000 0

Denver 1 1 .500 1

Utah 1 1 .500 1

PACIFIC DIVISION

W L Pct GB

Phoenix 2 0 1.000 0

San Antonio 1 1 .500 1

Golden State 1 1 .500 1

SACRAMENTO DIVISION

W L Pct GB

Sacramento 2 0 1.000 0

Oakland 1 1 .500 1

U.S. COLLEGE SCORES

PRELIMINARY RESULTS

MICHIGAN

LEADERS COLLEGE

W L Pct GB

Michigan 2 0 1.000 0

Iowa 1 1 .500 1

Wisconsin 1 1 .500 1

WOMEN

TOP 25

W L Pct GB

North Carolina 2 0 1.000 0

Duke 1 1 .500 1

Stanford 1 1 .500 1

SATURDAY RESULTS

MICHIGAN

W L Pct GB

Michigan 2 0 1.000 0

Iowa 1 1 .500 1

Wisconsin 1 1 .500 1

WOMEN

TOP 25

W L Pct GB

North Carolina 2 0 1.000 0

Duke 1 1 .500 1

Stanford 1 1 .500 1

SATURDAY RESULTS

MICHIGAN

W L Pct GB

Michigan 2 0 1.000 0

Iowa 1 1 .500 1

Wisconsin 1 1 .500 1

WOMEN

TOP 25

W L Pct GB

North Carolina 2 0 1.000 0

NHL STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

W L Pct GB

Boston 2 0 1.000 0

New York 1 1 .500 1

Philadelphia 1 1 .500 1

PITTSBURGH DIVISION

W L Pct GB

Pittsburgh 2 0 1.000 0

Washington 1 1 .500 1

WESTERN CONFERENCE

NORTHWEST DIVISION

W L Pct GB

Seattle 2 0 1.000 0

Portland 1 1 .500 1

Vancouver 1 1 .500 1

MINNESOTA DIVISION

W L Pct GB

Minnesota 2 0 1.000 0

Denver 1 1 .500 1

Utah 1 1 .500 1

PACIFIC DIVISION

W L Pct GB

Phoenix 2 0 1.000 0

San Antonio 1 1 .500 1

Golden State 1 1 .500 1

SACRAMENTO DIVISION

W L Pct GB

Sacramento 2 0 1.000 0

Oakland 1 1 .500 1

SAN JOSE DIVISION

W L Pct GB

San Jose 2 0 1.000 0

Anaheim 1 1 .500 1

LOS ANGELES DIVISION

W L Pct GB

GOLF

MALAYSIAN OPEN

Final scores Sunday of \$750,000

Malaysian Open, played on Sanyo Golf

Clubhouse, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

W L Pct GB

Greg Norman 1 0 1.000 0

RICK WATSON 2 0 1.000 0

RUGBY UNION

FIVE NATIONS

Scotland 31, Wales 20

Ireland 19, France 10

SOCCER

WORLD ROUNDUP

**Kumble's Perfect 10:
Bowler's Record Day
Gives India Victory**

CRICKET Anil Kumble, an Indian spin bowler, equaled an unbreakable record when he took all of Pakistan's second-inning wickets Sunday to win the second test for India in New Delhi.

Kumble, cleverly exploiting the bounce on a dry, turning wicket, bowled a total of 26.3 overs in the innings at a cost of 74 runs.

He took his entire haul in a spell of 18.3 overs for 37 runs. He twice took wickets with consecutive balls.

Pakistan was all out for 207, and lost by 212 runs. The two-match series ended tied at 1-1.

The only other bowler to take all 10 wickets in a test innings is Jim Laker. The England spin bowler took all 10 wickets against Australia in Manchester in 1956.

"I never ever dreamt I would be able to do such a thing," Kumble said. "It's a great honor for me. It's like a dream."

Adam Gilchrist scored 154 as Australia made 310 runs as it beat Sri Lanka by 43 runs Sunday in a tri-series game in Melbourne. Australia was already sure of meeting England in the final. (Reuters)

Hingis Smashes Coetzer

TENNIS Martina Hingis crushed Amanda Coetzer of South Africa, 6-2, 6-1, Sunday to win the final of the Toray Pan Pacific tournament in Tokyo in 44 minutes.

Hingis, who won the Australian Open last week, had reclaimed the world No. 1 ranking Saturday by beating her doubles partner Jana Novotna, the third seed, in straight sets in the semifinals.

On Sunday, Hingis served just two aces in the match, but kept pounding winners into the corners, displaying some impressive ground strokes, volleys, passing shots and crosscourt winners. The match lasted only 44 minutes. (AP)

Langer Lets Victory Slip

GOLF Bernhard Langer made a triple bogey at the last hole Sunday to throw away a one-shot lead and hand the Greg Norman International in Sydney to Michael Long of New Zealand.

Langer, seeking his first victory in 15 months, was at 10-under with the par-three 18th to play. He hurried his tee shot in a bunker to the right of the green, hit his next shot over the green, rolled a chip short, was penalized a stroke for bumping his marker and then took two putts.

Langer finished at seven-under 285 after a last round of 80 and slipped to third, two shots behind Long, who shot a 72, and one shot behind another New Zealander, Michael Campbell. (AP)



Hidetoshi Nakata of Perugia tackling Lazio's Matias Almeyda from behind Sunday in Rome. Lazio won, 3-0.

Salas Sparks Lazio's Rout of Perugia

Fiorentina, Held to 0-0 Draw by AC Milan, Clings to One-Point Serie A Lead

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

Marcelo Salas scored twice and also set up a goal by his fellow striker Christian Vieri on Sunday to lead surging Lazio of Rome past Perugia, 3-0, cutting Fiorentina's Serie A lead to one point.

Salas raised his season tally to 11 goals and Vieri hit his sixth goal in as many games as Lazio gained a club-record ninth straight victory. Fiorentina played to a 0-0 draw with third-place AC Milan.

Fiorentina's home winning streak ended at 10. The club also lost Gabriel Batistuta, its star striker, who went off with a knee injury in the closing minutes. Batistuta, who leads the Italian league with 18 goals, was held in check most of the game, as was Milan's Oliver Bierhoff.

Each club nearly scored in the first half. George Weah, Milan's Liberian striker, blasted a 20-meter shot off the post in the 19th minute. Edmundo, Fiorentina's Brazilian attacker, chested down a cross and slammed a powerful shot off the crossbar in the 42d minute.

Inter Milan moved into fourth place by routing last-place Empoli, 5-1. Youri Djorkaeff scored a hat-trick after the veteran Roberto Baggio and the Argentine midfielder Diego Simeone tallied Inter's first two goals.

ENGLAND The Jamaican international Dean Burton scored twice in the second half to give Derby County a 2-1 home victory Sunday in a Premier League clash with Everton.

Everton took the lead in the 38th minute on Nicky Barron's first league goal in more than a year. It was Everton's first league goal in more than six hours of play. Derby equalized six minutes after the break when Burton's Richard Dunn was accidentally tripped by Burton, leaving the striker free to score from close range. Burton hit the winner five minutes from time.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer of Norway played only the last 19 minutes but finished with four goals

Saturday as visiting Manchester United hammered Nottingham Forest, 3-1.

Dwight Yorke and Andy Cole scored two each before Solskjaer weighed in to keep United four points ahead at the top of the English Premier League.

Chelsea beat Southampton 1-0 to stay second, while Arsenal improved to third, a further point back, with a 4-0 rout of West Ham United. Aston Villa continued to struggle, losing 3-1 at

EUROPEAN SOCCER ROUNDUP

home to Blackburn Rovers, but Liverpool looked impressive in beating Middlesbrough, 3-1, at Anfield.

The clash in Nottingham between top and bottom teams in the league had an astonishing start and an incredible finish.

It began with three goals in the first seven minutes. Yorke put United ahead after two minutes, Alan Rogers equalized in the sixth and Andy Cole scored seconds after United kicked off again. Cole missed several more chances before seizing on a rebound early in the second half to make it 3-1. Yorke then tapped in his second before being replaced by Solskjaer.

In the final 12 minutes, the Norwegian helped himself to four goals as United claimed a seventh consecutive victory.

Gianfranco Zola put Chelsea ahead with a trademark free kick against Southampton. Arsenal swept past West Ham with first half goals by Dennis Bergkamp and his fellow Dutchman Marc Overmars and late contributions from Nicolas Anelka of France and Ray Parlour.

SPAIN FC Barcelona struck a three-point lead atop the first division Sunday with a 2-1 victory at Extremadura, while Real Madrid, which Barcelona plays next week, kept up the chase, moving into joint second place after beating Valladolid, 3-2, with a hat-trick from Raul.

Extremadura gave Barcelona a jolt in the 16th minute when it took the lead on a goal by the Argentine forward Carlos Dure. But Luis Enrique Martinez equalized for Barcelona in the 29th minute and Patrick Kluivert of the Netherlands clinched the victory in the 82d.

The victory was Barcelona's ninth in a row, giving it 40 points. Real Madrid, Celta and Valencia each trail by three points.

Madrid, meanwhile, was booed off the pitch by a home crowd of 75,000 unimpressed by its victory over lowly Valladolid. Raul scored twice on penalties, in the 18th and 51st minutes. Valladolid refused to give up. Juan Vizcaino scored in 65th minute, and then three minutes from the end, the Argentine striker Diego Klimowicz tied the score. But seconds before the final whistle, Raul saved Madrid, getting his first hat-trick of the season.

Moises Garcia put visiting Villarreal ahead in the 27th minute, but Juan Sanchez revived Celta's hopes with an equalizer two minutes before the break. Michel Salgado pushed Celta ahead with a goal in the 81st minute. Bulgaria's Lubo Penev scored a third from the penalty spot in the 87th and the Israeli Haim Revivo made it 4-1 two minutes into injury time.

On Saturday, Valencia missed a chance to regain first place when it drew, 0-0, with Espanyol de La Coruna.

FRANCE Playing at home, Auxerre fell to lowly Toulouse on Sunday, 2-1.

Olympique Marseille, beaten and overtaken by Girondins Bordeaux last weekend, bounced back to the top of the French first division with a 3-1 home victory over Bastia on Saturday, while Bordeaux conceded a late goal and drew, 1-1, at Rennes.

Fabrizio Ravanelli, Marseille's Italian striker, scored twice and also took the free kick that created the opening goal for Pierre Issa in the 33d minute. (AP, Reuters)

Goetschl Wins World Downhill Title

Austrian Women Complete 2d Medal Sweep at Championships

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

VAIL, Colorado — Renate Goetschl led an Austrian sweep of the top four places in the women's downhill on Sunday in the World Alpine Ski Championships.

The powerful Austrian team now has claimed 10 of a possible 15 medals in these championships, including four golds. For the Austrian women, it was their second medal sweep; they claimed the top three places in the super-G on Wednesday.

Goetschl, who won silver medals in both the super-G and combined, had slower times than her teammate Michaela Dorfmeister after the second and third intermediate times, but she skied the bottom section of the course perfectly.

Goetschl, who leads this season's World Cup downhill standings, finished in 1 minute, 48.20 seconds.

Dorfmeister, bowing her head in disappointment after Goetschl's run, settled for the silver medal in 1:48.35.

Stefanie Schuster was third in 1:48.37, and Alexandra Meissnitzer took fourth in 1:48.47. Germany's Regina Haeusel was fifth in 1:48.92.

In the women's combined, Pernilla Wiberg of Sweden regained the women's world title that she had lost in 1997.

Wiberg, the Olympic combined champion in 1994 and world champion in 1996, briefly ended Austria's domination of the championships with a total time of three minutes, 08.52 seconds on Friday.

Goetschl, the defending champion, picked up the silver medal in 3:08.52, with Florence Masnada of France third in 3:08.97.

Hermann Maier of Austria, risking disaster with a run that was aggressive even by his daring standards, powered his way to victory in the men's downhill.

Maier, 26, won his second gold medal in as many events at these championships. He shared a gold medal with Lasse Kjus of Norway when they tied in the super-G on Tuesday.

On Saturday, Maier edged Kjus by .31 seconds in the downhill on the steep, treacherous Birds of Prey course.

Maier, the defending World Cup overall, super-G and giant slalom champion, attacked from the start, clipping several

gates—one of them hard—as he sought the fastest line down the icy course.

Maier's cartwheeling wipeout in the downhill at the 1998 Olympics was a dramatic highlight of the Games—and one he was not eager to repeat.

Kjetil Andre Aamodt of Norway, sixth out of the start house, took the early lead with a time of 1 minute, 41.17 seconds.

Kristian Ghedina, an Italian who won a World Cup downhill on this course last season, could not better Aamodt's time, but Maier could.

Racing eighth, Maier was faster than Aamodt at every intermediate clocking and finished in 1 minute, 40.60 seconds.

Maier, who won the super-G and giant slalom at the 1998 Olympics, then waited anxiously in the finish area as Kjus, racing next, threatened his time.

But Kjus, a dominating downhiller this season who has won four of the seven downhill races on the World Cup circuit and who leads both the downhill and overall standings, came up just short at 1:40.91.

Aamodt hung on for the bronze medal. (AP, Reuters)



Renate Goetschl racing to her downhill victory on Sunday in Colorado.



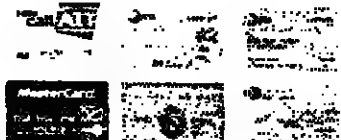
(take in a rock show)

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